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LD041242 [Editorial Report]

Iran

Majlis Problems — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told Majlis deputies in remarks broadcast by Tehran radio that he is aware of the problems in the Majlis but declined to give specific advice on how to resolve them, saying only that issues should be solved "in the way that Islam has prescribed." The Majlis must ensure that it remains unblemished and retains its "good name," Khomeyni said.

The radio also broadcast a speech at the same meeting by Majlis speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who requested "precise and clear intervention and help" from Khomeyni to resolve problems in the Majlis concerning the passage of "fundamental and constitutional laws." Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that if Khomeyni does not intervene to solve these legislative problems, "we will not be sure of finding someone who would be able to do this important duty in the future." The Majlis speaker provided more information on the issue during a subsequent press conference reported by the radio, noting the existence of differences of opinion on matters of jurisprudence among the majority of deputies and the Council of Guardians, whose members themselves hold conflicting opinions. The issue thus remains in abeyance, he said, and Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and other people and officials "always ask why we have not compiled the basic laws."

These remarks on problems facing the Majlis follow a Tehran radio report on a 30 May meeting between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Montazeri in which the latter gave guidelines on the role of the Majlis. The "deputy leader" stressed that Majlis deputies should be careful in what they say "about an individual's dignity and reputation" and should ensure that their slogans and pledges to the people are "practical." Meanwhile, in a 3 June statement cited by Iraq's Voice of the Masses radio, the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq maintained that Khomeyni has issued an official decision dismissing Montazeri as his successor and appointing him an "acting leader," a title which will not allow Montazeri to succeed Khomeyni.

Gulf Policy, Foreign Relations — Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that Iran is "not worrying" about the situation in the Gulf because the United States will find it "very difficult" to mobilize forces in the area, according to an IRNA report on his press conference. Countries in the southern Persian Gulf will not allow U.S. aircraft to be based on their soil, he said, and U.S. aircraft carriers "cannot enter" the Gulf because they would come within range of Iranian artillery, missiles, and gunboats. The Majlis speaker added that an increase in U.S. forces in the Gulf is unlikely because of President Reagan's "shaky position," asserting that while Reagan might wish to make a "silly move," it is "very improbable" that Congress will allow him to carry it out.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also discussed the diplomatic row with Britain, stating that Iranian security officials were "seriously suspicious" of UK diplomat Edward Chaplin for a long time and might have arrested him even if the British police had not arrested an Iranian diplomat in Manchester on the "stupid" charge of shoplifting. In Damascus, Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam warned the British that Iran can "reply in kind and anywhere in the world to any mistake they commit," Radio Monte Carlo reported. Speaking after talks with Syrian leaders, Sheykh ol-Eslam also disclosed that the Iranian prime minister will visit Syria at the head of a high-ranking delegation this month.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Central Sector Fighting — An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA "ridiculed" Iran's claims that it dealt Iraqi forces a "crushing blow" in the Mimak area. The spokesman asserted that an Iranian infantry regiment tried to attack Iraqi positions in the area, but the Iraqis opened fire on the attackers and "wiped out most of them." However, IRNA reported that Iranian forces foiled a sixth Iraqi counteroffensive in the Mimak area, captured a total of five strategic heights, and killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqis.

Spokesman on Kuwait Spying — An Iranian military spokesman termed "illogical" Kuwait's reaction to the seizure of its "spy boats" in the Khawr 'Abdallah, IRNA reported. The spokesman noted that recent "increased Kuwaiti espionage activities for Iraq" "prove" that Kuwait is collaborating with Iraq.

Palestinian Affairs

View on Karami — Baghdad Voice of PLO radio broadcast a condolence cable from Yasir 'Arafat to the Lebanese president in which the PLO leader praised Rashid Karami's stands in support of the Palestinians and noted that he was the Lebanese prime minister responsible for signing the 1969 Cairo Agreement with the PLO. In an interview with the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* cited by WAKH, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf claimed that Karami was assassinated because he did not sign the decree abrogating the Cairo Agreement. A 31 May Baghdad Voice of PLO commentary had accused Syria of instigating the abrogation of the Cairo Agreement.

Syrian Move on Abu Nidal — Syria has closed down offices of the Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal) organization in the Damascus area and has ordered all members of the group who do not hold Syrian passports to leave the country, the *Jordan Times* reported 4 June. The paper noted speculation that the move could be a sign of Syrian displeasure over the group's position on the "camps war" and its dialogue with Fatah, or it could signal a Syrian effort to improve relations with the West.

Sudan

A new cabinet was named and some of the ministers sworn in 3 June, SUNA announced. Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad becomes foreign minister, and Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi remains defense minister. The former foreign and trade ministers lost positions in the government. The cabinet includes four new portfolios: public service, religious affairs, social welfare, and youth and sports.

Tunisia

Twenty-six Muslim fundamentalists were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 4 to 6 years for participating in a banned demonstration, Paris radio reported, adding that further trials of protestors are expected.

Libya

Position on Iran — According to IRNA, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in a 2 June meeting with the Iranian ambassador emphasized that his country is "firmly committed to its alliance" with Iran. The diplomat also met with Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, who expressed Libya's support for "Iran's Islamic and popular revolution," the agency noted.

USSR Delegation — The Secretariat of the General People's Congress began talks with a delegation led by Supreme Soviet Presidium Deputy Chairman Arnold Ryuytel, JANA reported. The group will discuss the consolidation of Libyan-USSR friendship and cooperation.

Afghanistan

A high-ranking delegation led by Council of Ministers Chairman Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand began an "official and friendly" visit to Iraq 4 June, *Bakhtar* noted.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tunis From Baghdad

JN031928 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution Forces, arrived in Tunis yesterday evening. This followed a visit to Iraq, which included talks with Iraqi officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian question and the Iraq-Iran war.

Sends Condolences to Al-Jumayyil

JN032001 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Jun 87

["Text" of cable from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil on the death of Prime Minister Rashid Karami — date not given]

[Text] His Excellency Brother Amin al-Jumayyil, president of the Republic of Lebanon: It was with deep sadness and sorrow that I learned of the martyrdom of Lebanon's prime minister, His Excellency Brother Rashid Karami, following the criminal act he was subjected to the day before yesterday. The criminal hands that committed this treacherous act against one of Lebanon's most prominent leaders, whose life was one of service to Lebanon and its Arabism and unity, sought with this action to continue their destabilization of the country. They also hoped to undermine its security and strike at its unity and territorial integrity on behalf of the imperialist-Zionist alliance.

The deceased was known for his support of our people's struggle and just cause on more than one level. We will always remember that it was during his term of office as premier that the Lebanese Government signed the Cairo Agreement with the PLO under the auspices of the late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir.

While condemning this heinous crime, I offer in my name, and on behalf of our Palestinian Arab people and my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to you, our fraternal Lebanese people, and to Karami's family. We ask God to have mercy on the deceased, to make heaven his final resting place, and to grant you and his family patience and solace.

Khalaf: Karami Killed for Not Abrogating Accord

JN031736 Manama WAKH in English 1546 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 3 (GNA) — Condemning the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, member of the Central Command of the Palestinian Fatah Movement Salah Khalaf, Wednesday said, in a press interview here, that Karami was assassinated for not signing the Cairo Agreement abrogation decree.

Khalaf, known as Abu Iyad, told daily *Al-Ittihad* that the death of Karami is a great pan-Arab loss, noting Karami represented a Lebanese faction that does not know hopelessness in treating the huge problems of Lebanon.

The Palestinian official stressed that Karami struggled to keep Lebanon and its people as part of the Arab nation.

He said "The assassination of Karami, who defended the Cairo accord, is a crime against the rights of Lebanon, the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause."

The Cairo Agreement signed in 1969, organizes the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

Mubarak, Delegation Return From Amman 3 Jun

NC031528 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo at 1620 today following a brief visit to Jordan. During his stay, President Mubarak and King Husayn held talks on issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz Views Peace Process, Amman Talks, Gulf

NC031818 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, made a statement to newsmen today following President Husni Mubarak's return from Jordan. In his remarks, Al-Baz expressed his belief that there has been progress in the peace process and that its extent will become clear in the next few weeks. This progress, he noted, is contingent upon several international and regional parties. Although the situation is now more promising, he asserted, this does not mean that the international conference will be held soon or that final agreement has even been reached for its convocation. He added: We are undoubtedly in a better position than we were a year ago.

Al-Baz continued: We are watching developments in the countries directly concerned with the peace process. We hope international support for the conference will grow and gain momentum. We also hope all parties will realize that this conference is the best available alternative and the surest scenario to pursue.

Asked whether Egypt is holding contacts with the PLO to discuss all the issues related to regional peace, Al-Baz replied: We are in touch with all the parties concerned and exclude no one, for we believe it is in the interest of peace to hold the broadest contacts possible. He said Egypt is in a unique position that enables it to contact all involved parties without exception.

Asked whether the talks between President Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn dealt with the situation in the Gulf, Al-Baz asserted: Of course we discussed the Gulf situation. The important thing is that we are extremely concerned about the continuation of this war. We believe all countries should do their utmost to end this fighting. We have always declared, and events have proven us right, that the continuation of this war could create and exacerbate dangers. The events and developments in the Gulf over the past few weeks bear this out. The longer the war continues, the more serious the situation will become. It is impossible to control this war or to assume that it will remain within current bounds. The dynamics of the war, as well as its continuation, only mean further danger and the possibility of escalation.

Cairo Television Comments on Gulf Situation

NC020828 Cairo Television Service in English 1832 GMT 1 Jun 87

[From the "Spotlight on the Important News of the Week" program]

[Text] A few years back when there were attempts to close the Strait of Hormuz, irrespective of which of the warring parties in the Gulf war were behind such a venture, stern warnings came from different world sources which immediately nipped those attempts in the bud. It was evident then that the last thing the warring parties, or, for that matter, any of the Gulf countries wished, was to get the major world powers directly involved in the conflict. Indirectly, the world powers were supplying weapons, if nothing else. Yet despite the threats which the Khomeyni regime directed against many Gulf countries in those years, none of those countries was willing to make use of offers for foreign military presence to counter the Iranian threats.

The Gulf countries felt — and rightly, too — that accepting foreign military presence for defense purposes would backfire, in the sense that it would make the countries accepting such facilities a main target of Iranian wrath and machinations. But the threatened Gulf states rejecting such facilities had taken other factors into consideration — factors which they deemed favorable at that time. The Iranians were under tremendous military pressure, and the Iraqis were well in control with a sweeping air of superiority, despite the armament, spare parts, and equipment flowing into Iran from Israel, Syria, and Libya.

Today, the situation is reversed, with the Iranians stepping up their military pressure and threatening to disrupt navigation in the Gulf to curb the flow of Arab oil. The reverse, as we all know, is a direct result of the U.S. arms shipments, secretly planned and delivered by the Israelis to the Khomeyni regime. Calculations by the Arab Gulf countries most hard hit, or at least seriously threatened by this reverse in the Gulf war, had to be made in view of these new circumstances.

Kuwait, for one, after long and fruitless discussions with the United States to have some of its oil tankers given the protection of the American flag, found itself constrained to hire three Soviet tankers as an initial solution to counter Khomeyni's threats. Worried and embarrassed by the Kuwaiti alternative solution, Washington found it imperative to view Kuwaiti demands in a more favorable light. The three Soviet tankers inevitably entail a more pronounced Soviet military presence in the area to defend the civilian vessels should they be exposed to attack. A stepped-up Soviet military presence in the Gulf is the last thing the United States would want or tolerate without taking drastic action to counter such a move.

Indeed, Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, had no reservations on this fundamental issue. He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week that despite the fact that the U.S. official position in the Gulf war was one of neutrality, American objectives were as follows: 1) to contain the Iranian revolution within Iran itself, and 2) to stop the Soviet Union from securing a strategic foothold in that sensitive area.

Those matters seem to have gotten out of hand as a direct result of the prolongation of the Gulf war. This was triggered by serious miscalculations and, above all, failure to heed the importance of the time factor, which not only distanced the two objectives listed by Mr Murphy but seems to have put them out of reach — at least insofar as the containment of the Khomeyni revolution is concerned.

To be more explicit, let us look at this tragic scenario. The Gulf war has lasted for 7 years. All will agree that irrespective of the ferocity of the battles, the Khomeyni ideology in the early years was confined to the Iranian borders. But not for long. As time went by, the Khomeyni-sponsored ideology was making itself felt with various intensity in other countries.

Export of that ideology [passage indistinct] so that the so-called pro-Iranian militias today seem to have the upper hand in that once peaceful Arab country and to defy even the humanitarian UN decisions, as borne out by the repeated failure of UN food and medical convoys to enter besieged Palestinian refugee camps to rescue starving and dying victims. And this is not only happening innearby Lebanon. Surely, we all recall distant Tunisia, which only a few months ago had to take tough security measures to curb subversive activities the pro-Khomeyni elements recruited in the country were undertaking [passage indistinct]

Had it not been for those who thought at one time they could harness the Gulf war for self-centered ambitions and interests, and had they not tried to win the favors of the Khomeyni cliques by furnishing them with what has helped prolong the war [passage indistinct] the area would by far have been [word indistinct] and the Khomeyni ideology [passage indistinct] have been disintegrated by now, instead of being vigorously exported and flourishing at the expense of the stability, security, and future of the plagued people of this area.

As for the second major objective listed by Mr Murphy before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee — to stop the Soviet Union from securing what he called a strategic foothold in the Gulf — here again the prolonged Gulf war and the [words indistinct] battles have imposed a new political concept on the Gulf countries. This conceptaims at establishing a more balanced relationship with the two superpowers. Today, we find three Gulf countries — Kuwait, Oman, and the UAE — having [word indistinct] relations with the Soviet Union with political and economic ties [words indistinct] Kuwait is particularly vulnerable to Iranian attacks because of its geographical location and its proximity to Iran's artillery east of Basra.

Iran's threat to navigation in the Gulf will become more serious in the imminent future with Tehran's complete redeployment of 20 Silkworm surface-to-surface missiles. Iranian defiance of both Soviet and American military presence remains all the more challenging. A once reasonably neutral area, the Gulf today faces a future of utmost uncertainty as a new superpowers' strife is unleashed for polarization and undisputed zones of influence.

Is the Gulf being protected against Iranian threats? Or is it about to be squeezed between the jaws of [word indistinct] Soviet-American pincers, with all the ensuing pressures and tensions imposed by the ruthless rules of the game?

Authorities Investigate Nasirite Organization

JN020830 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 1 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo — The Egyptian security forces arrested approximately 30 members of the Nasirite Youth [Al-Shabab al-Nasiri] at dawn yesterday. They searched their homes and offices for any information on the organization "Egypt's Nasirite Revolution" [Thawrat Misr al-Nasiriyay] which claimed responsibility for the attempt to assassinate three U.S. diplomats in Cairo on 26 May.

The security services have referred seven of those arrested to the State Security Prosecutor's office on the charge of forming a secret organization, contacting a foreign goverr ment — the identity of which was not disclosed by the security sources — and possessing explosives. They are: Kamal Abu 'Aytah, Amin Iskandar, 'Umar 'Abd al-Hamid, 'Adil Sharaf, Jamal Munib, Muhammad Munib, and Khalid Tal'at. The security services are also looking for three others who are accused of the same charges in case No 496 of 1987. They are: Muhammad al-Ashqar, 'Umar 'Abd al- Fattah, and Muhammad Hanafi. They are all members of the Arab Nasirite Socialist Party [Al-Hizb al-Ishtiraki al-'Arabi al-Nasiri] which is being founded.

Sources in the security services say that further arrests are expected in the coming days in order to obtain more information on the "Egypt's Nasirite Revolution" organization, particularly since the security services have failed to uncover any evidence in the incidents for which the organization claimed responsibility.

The Supreme State Prosecutor's Office is scheduled to begin interrogating the arrested today in the presence of a large number of lawyers to learn the full details of the charges leveled against them.

AL-MUSAWWAR Editor Escapes Assassination

NC030438 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA) — Makram Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the *Al-Hilal* Publishing House Board of Directors and editor in chief of the *Al-Musawwar* magazine, escaped an assassination attempt tonight. Ahmad was in a Mercedes heading from Al-Tahrir Square [in Cairo] toward Al-Tahrir Street when the passengers in another vehicle which drove near his car at Bab al-Luq opened fire, slightly injuring him in the arm. Two citizens also were slightly wounded by the gunfire. The windshield of Ahmad's car was smashed, and the glass of a Peugeot automobile behind him was also shattered.

Senior Interior Ministry officials and experts from the criminal laboratory have inspected the scene of the incident.

Mubarak Appoints New Air Defense Commander

NC021945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has appointed Staff Major General Mustafa Ahmad al-Shadhili commander of the Air Defense Forces.

Maj Gen Mustafa al-Shadhili, born in 1934, graduated from the Military College in 1955. He has held a number of leading posts: commander of a missile brigade in 1973; commander of an Air Defense Division; head of the Command Training Branch; assistant to the commander of the Air Defense Forces; and head of the Air Defense Operations Branch. He is also a graduate of the Higher War College at the Nasir Military Academy.

Mubarak Reviews Budget, Notes Oil Discoveries

NC021550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has chaired an expanded meeting at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis. The session was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank; and the ministers of social insurance, information, industry, petroleum, supply, economy, and finance.

In a statement following the 3-hour session, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak had reviewed the outcome of the visit by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf during the meeting. He also commented on their talks with regard to African relations, Senegalese-Egyptian relations in various fields, African-Arab relations, and coordination for the upcoming ICO session scheduled to be held in Dakar.

The president discussed the results of talks with the IMF in light of the following: the report submitted by Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid, the outcome of his talks in Paris on rescheduling the [Egyptian] debts, and assurances given by the international institutions on the soundness of the course being pursued by the Egyptian economic plan. The president pointed out that the preliminary results of applying the new banking system for foreign currency indicate its success. He also called for the need to closely follow up this experiment, to make the necessary quick decisions to maintain its continued success, and to solve the problems facing businessmen in their dealings with the banking sector.

The petroleum minister displayed a map showing new oil discoveries in the Western Desert and noted the major international corporations' demand for more oil exploration in areas open for survey. He also pointed out the new oil fields that entered into production during the 1982-87 5-year plan. The petroleum minister added that there are now 19 oil discoveries under assessment. These discoveries have added 305 barrels [figure as heard] to our daily crude oil production, enhanced our national crude oil reserves by 1.39 billion barrels, and increased our natural gas reserves by 4 trillion cubic feet.

The information minister said that Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi had outlined the financial policy governing the state budget for the year 1987-88, which totals approximately 23 billion Egyptian pounds and which was approved by the cabinet last night. President Mubarak stressed the need for the government to cut its expenditures in the fields designated by the Council of Ministers. Minister al-Sharif said the president had given a number of instructions for maintaining a reasonable balance between wages and prices and had asked the government to complete the study related to this issue within 2 weeks. He also requested the government to provide funds to improve the necessary social services.

New Oil Field Discovered

NC041015 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA) — A new oil-producing field has been discovered south of Marsa Matruh in the western desert. [passage omitted]

The MENA energy petroleum editor has learned that the new discovery, named Yasir oil field, has a daily output of 9,000 barrels. The petroleum is being extracted from two layers, each yielding 4,500 barrels. The new field also supplies 12.5 million cubic feet of natural gas daily. The oil from the new field is grade 50 light crude, among the best crude with regard to price and quality. [passage omitted]

An official of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation has asserted that the discovery of the new field does not signify an increase in the current Egyptian oil production of 870,000 barrels per day, but primarily indicates an increase in national oil reserves for some years to come. This is in line with the policy laid down by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources to maintain the country's supreme interest, the official said. [passage omitted]

Minister Reports 1 June Cabinet Meeting

NC021652 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the Egyptian Cabinet met yesterday under Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and approved the financial policies of the new general budget proposals. He also said that the new general budget involves a total outlay of 23 billion pounds, 4.5 billion of which are for wages, 9.2 billion for other current expenditures [khidmat], and 5.8 billion for investment.

The new budget proposals reduce the net budget deficit by approximately 100 billion pounds, Al-Sharif noted. The Cabinet, he added, has approved several measures to slash government expenditures on public relations, fuel, electricity, water, conferences held in Egypt, and delegations traveling abroad.

The information minister noted that the cabinet discussed a report presented by Interior Minister Zaki Badr on the investigations being conducted by his ministry in the wake of the attempt on Hasan Abu Basha's life. Zaki Badr briefed the cabinet on the extremist terrorist organizations that have been uncovered and the documents seized by the security services which have shed some light on the domestic and foreign backgrounds of this organization [singular as heard].

Al-Sharif stated that the interior minister briefed the cabinet on the progress made in the search for the organization members

who attacked Abu Basha, noting that some of them have already been detained. He cited Zaki Badr as saying that Abu Basha's case will be referred to the public prosecution, which will begin its own investigations into the incident.

The interior minister also briefed the cabinet on the measures being taken against drug and black market money dealers, along with the results these measures have had in terms of protecting the national economy and public safety.

The information minister concluded his remarks by noting that the cabinet had listened to a report by the minister of supply and internal trade, who told his colleagues that the country possesses both an adequate supply and sufficient reserves of basic goods.

Al-Qadhdhafi Allegedly Ordered Gas Use in War
NC030400 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic
2040 GMT 2 Jun 87

[From the "Voice of the Libyan People" program]

[Text] Brothers, here is a news report from Libya: Sources close to the Libyan leadership have stated that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, issued orders for the use of poisonous gas in the Chadian war as revenge and in order to put an end to the successive defeats suffered by the Libyan forces there. This is in addition to Libya's using the internationally banned napalm and phosphoric bombs which their planes are dropping on Chadian cities and its countryside.

These sources have revealed that a large quantity of poisonous gas has arrived in the southern military zones and that thousands of gas masks have been brought into the (Niksu) region for distribution among the Libyan troops. This is to prevent them from being poisoned by their own gas, similar to the cases of poisoning in Libyan ranks as a result of (?using) wells, which Al-Qadhdhafi's followers had previously poisoned in order to prevent the Chadian forces from using them.

USSR's Ryuytel Meets People's Congress Secretary

LD031649 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jun (JANA) — The secretary and members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress met this morning in Tripoli with Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the delegation accompanying him.

The brother secretary of the General People's Congress welcomed the Soviet group, stressing the firmness of Libyan Arab-Soviet relations in all fields. He also highlighted the fact that both countries are working to check imperialist domination and are trying to ensure the freedom of man on earth. He explained that the Arabs of Libya have been trying since the outbreak of the great Al-Fatih revolution to strengthen ties with the peoples of the Soviet Union. This is in recognition of the support they have provided and continue to provide the Palestinian cause. In addition, we in the Jamahiriyah seek to back strugglers and reject all forms of imperialist domination, which is what the Soviet Union is trying to do as well.

The secretary of the General People's Congress stressed that the great Al-Fatih revolution has made it possible to expel U.S. and British forces and bases that were originally established to oppose the Soviet Union. This has made the United States our enemy, and has prompted it to send its most modern aircraft to bomb the sons of this peaceful nation as they slept. The result was the death of many innocent children and elderly women; it was an attempt on the life of the brother leader of the revolution. Despite all that, we continue to stress our freedom and our decision to support the Palestinian Arab people. We will not be frightened by these threats, as we fully believe we are fighting for our rights and freedoms and are making progress.

At the conclusion of his speech, he emphasized that the Great Jamahiriyah stands in solidarity with the friendly Soviet Union. We insist that the peoples' fight for liberation is legitimate, and we all stand together against America's attempts to dominate the region. This trip will help strengthen bilateral relations and will open new prospects for fruitful and sincere cooperation for the benefit of the two friendly peoples.

Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, praised the relations between the two friendly peoples, saying: I bring greetings and respects from Mr Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU, and Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, to the brother leader of the revolution, and the Soviet people's greetings to the Libyan Arab people. He stressed the Soviet Union's support and solidarity with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in challenging all aggressive imperialist plots and Libya's backing of struggling peoples.

He said: We in the Soviet Union deeply appreciate the achievements made by the Libyan Arab people as a result of the revolution. We consider these accomplishments confirmation of the peoples' ability to carry out their own process of construction. He pointed out that the presence of the Soviet delegation in the Great Jamahiriyah was a practical affirmation of the depth of relations. This trip, he noted, will give them a strong push in the service of the two peoples' common objectives. These goals include confrontation of all forms of imperialist domination and control, which have man's dignity and freedom as their target. He explained the Soviet Union's belief that the Mediterranean must become a sea of security and peace far from international conflicts. Furthermore, it must be used for the benefit of the region's peoples.

At the close of his remarks, Arnold Ryuytel said the peoples of the Soviet Union are working nonstop to strengthen their relations with the Libyan Arab people in all fields.

JANA has learned that a round of preliminary talks will be held this evening between the members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and the Soviet delegation, which is led by the deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Attends Secretariat Meeting

LD032236 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jun (JANA) — A meeting was held at Tripoli's People's Hall this evening between the Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Great Jamahiriyah and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. This was part of the process of consolidating relations of amity and cooperation between the two friendly peoples.

The session was also attended by the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress and a number of Libyan Arab technical advisers. The Soviet side was represented by Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the members of his delegation.

Tours Al-Qadhdhafi's Home

LD041046 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Sayf [June] 4, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Mr Arnold Ryuytel, vice-chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, and his accompanying delegation visited yesterday afternoon the house of the leader of the revolution witnessing the effects of the abortive and barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression.

Mr. Ryuytel has reiterated the full solidarity of the Soviet Union with the people of Great Jamahiriyah in bravely repulsing all the imperialist and Zionist plots.

In the comments he wrote down in the guest-book, Mr. Ryuytel said that the terrorist U.S. aggression was a clear expression of international policy of terrorism pursued by Washington against peace-loving peoples.

He has also expressed his deep resentment of the unprecedented terrorist act committed by U.S. imperialism against a sovereign state, the leader of the revolution and innocent citizens in the two cities of Tripoli and Banghazi.

USSR Naval Commander Holds News Conference

LD031844 Tripoli JANA in English 1747 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 3, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Vladimir Yegorov the commander of the Soviet Mediterranean Fleet [title as received] asserted the standing of the Soviet Union by the side of the people of Great Jamahiriyah in facing U.S. imperialist plots.

In a press conference held at noon today on board the command anti-submarines ship *Admiral Isachenkov*, the Soviet fleet commander explained: "The traces of the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression on the home of the leader of the revolution, which we witnessed yesterday, demonstrated the ugliness of this barbarous aggression of the U.S. Administration against Great Jamahiriyah and its leader. [no closing quotation marks as received] He indicated: "World press did not show the horror of this aggression which we have seen as it stands, and our sailors were deeply shocked and undoubtedly they will tell their folks back in the U.S.S.R. of their feelings and portray the true picture and the ugliness of this imperialist barbarous aggression."

He added: "The whole world has shown solidarity with the Libyan Arab people. Peace-loving forces stand by its side headed by the Soviet Union which had repeatedly declared that our visit is nothing but an expression of such solidarity."

The commander of the Soviet Mediterranean Fleet expressed his gratitude and consideration to the Libyan Arab people for giving the chance to visit Great Jamahiriyah.

In the press release that was distributed on this occasion, he asserted that relations between Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union has developed in recent years noticeably for the benefit of both friendly peoples. That is confirmed by the regular and fruitful meetings. The visit of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi — the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution to the Soviet Union in Al-Harth [November] 1985 is the best evidence of that, for emphasis was made during the visit on the unity of struggle against imperialism and the building of a world based on justice, cooperation and mutual respect.

The statement added: "The Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party Mikhail Gorbachev has highly valued the development of the Soviet-Libyan Arab relation. He asserted that the relations between both countries are built on mutual respect between our two peoples. Our two countries agree upon their firm commitments to press ahead with consolidating comprehensive peace and security and respect the rights of all nations which struggle for their political and economic independence.

"The Soviet people expresses its deep appreciation of the courage of the Libyan Arab people in repulsing the aggression committed by U.S imperialism against Great Jamahiriyah's people in Al-Tayr month [April] of last year. The Soviets firmly condemn imperialist attempts to prevent the Libyan Arab people from following an independant line in domestic and foreign policies by applying pressure on it and stepping-up tension on its southern borders."

The Soviet naval commander's statement condemned the deeds of the U.S. Administration and the Zionist entity by mass annihilating the Arab people of Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.

Naval officer Viktor Nicher Boni [name as received] of the command ship gave at the start of the press conference a briefing on the ship's capabilities — defencive, aggressive and the destroying of enemy submarines.

The commander of the Soviet destroyer *Bezuprechny* gave also a briefing on the combat capabilities of his destroyer and its air defence capabilities.

Libya To Produce Surface-to-Surface Missiles

JN040848 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] British military sources have told *Al-Ittihad* that Libyan efforts to develop and produce surface-to-surface ballistic missiles are about to meet success. The sources said that despite efforts by Western governments over the past few years to prevent Libya from producing such arms, the Libyan missiles are now near the experimental stage, which precedes production.

British sources expect Libya to start manufacturing "relatively advanced missiles in terms of technology and operations" within the next few years. The sources said Libya is planning to produce missiles with a range of 500 km.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Message From President Reagan

JN030905 Manama WAKH in English
1600 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] Manama, June 2 (GNA) — H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman AL Khalifah today received a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan concerning bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern in addition to the current developments in the region. The message was conveyed by the U.S. Ambassador in Manama Sam Zakhem during an audience with H.H. the Amir here today. The audience was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

KUWAIT

Minister, U.S. Delegation Discuss Gulf Security

LD031831 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1217 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 3 Jun (KUNA) — Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah has again denied Iranian claims that Iranian authorities have seized Kuwaiti boats spying on Iran.

Shaykh Al-Sabah said these boats were carrying "Egyptian brothers who were fishing and who only had fishing nets. They entered prohibited zones where they were arrested by Iranian authorities under the pretext that they were spies, as was claimed".

In a statement to newsmen after the graduation ceremony for student officers this morning, he said that he had met with the two U.S. Congressmen visiting the country yesterday. In discussing the Iraq-Iran war, he noted that they and their government were asked to contribute to hastening the end of this bloody war which only benefits colonialists and arms merchants.

Shaykh al-Sabah added that they also discussed "in general" military matters and the role of the United States and others in safeguarding international shipping lanes, whether in the Gulf or elsewhere, as part of their responsibility to protect such sea-lanes.

The defense minister denied that he had discussed with the U.S. military delegation [as received] facilities for getting arms, asserting that such issues "are discussed with governments and not with individuals or establishments." Shaykh al-Sabah said the presence in the Gulf of foreign warships, such as U.S. frigates, does not demean the independence of the Gulf states, but protects international sea-lanes. The same holds true for the presence of French, Soviet, or English forces, because the entire world is responsible for guaranteeing the safety of international waters.

Concerning the role of the Gulf Shield Force [GCC joint unit] in recent events taking place in the Arab Gulf region, and whether there is any intention to convene a meeting of the GCC defense ministers, Shaykh al-Sabah expressed his conviction that conditions do not yetrequire that such a meeting be convened. He said the Gulf Shield Force "is ready and on call and was set up basically to defend any Arab state, particularly Gulf states; however, there has been no need to call out this force. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The defense minister refused to answer a question about statements that the U.S. Administration wants the GCC member states to take part in their defense in the event of an aggression against U.S. forces in the Gulf. He said he is satisfied with the visiting U.S. military delegation's comment to the effect that the United States so far has received no reply from the Gulf states to its request.

Shaykh al-Sabah also expressed pride at the graduation of Kuwaiti youths as officers "to participate in the building of the country'sfuture with the rest of their brothers, and to act as a protective shield for the security and stability of Kuwait." [passage omitted]

Daily on Gulf Security, U.S. Support for Israel

LD040949 Kuwait KUNA in English
0856 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 4 (KUNA) — Local daily *Kuwait Times* Thursday stressed the importance of the security and freedom of shipping navigation in the Gulf, noting that it is undoubtedly a matter of vital interest not only to the Gulf states but the whole world.

The English language daily, in an editorial, said that "with all that importance, it is a part of the real problem in the region, in fact, it is an offshoot of much bigger and vastly more complicated malaise which has been tormenting and bleeding the Middle East."

The daily added that although there appears to be a realisation in Washington that things have gone woefully awry in this part of the world, they don't seem to be able to identify what and where.

"It may not be out of place here to state once again that the United States' squint-eyed evaluation of Israel-vs-others' in the heart of the Middle East is at the root of all the bloodletting, and destruction of millions of people," the paper went on.

Kuwait Times, urging the world to exert every effort in that direction, underlined that the very primary interests of the entire world demand that all shipping in the Gulf should be free, smooth and completely safe and secure.

In conclusion, the paper reiterated the point that what the Middle East needs is the restoration of peace based upon justice, saying that "if that kind of peace is restored the rest will follow."

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Views Policy in Gulf Region

JN031151 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 1 Jun 87 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Game of Moving the Keys"]

[Text] We have known for a long time that opening the Gulf gates to foreign fleets and internationalizing a regional dispute and expanding its area and parties requires introductions and a chain of keys, a key in each hand, with each hand knowing how and when it should move this key to serve its interest at the expense of the others.

It was inconceivable that Iran would be the first to turn the initial key and to share the interests of those holding the rest of the keys. These countries today are trying to achieve their interests and draw up a new map that conforms to the size of the vessels sent to the Gulf in accordance with the circle of ire which Iran has kindled by intercepting commercial ships and tankers and by threatening to block navigation in international waterways.

The superpowers were waiting for this opportunity. They expected Iran to provide them with the necessary umbrella to intervene and turn the rest of the keys after successfully using the arms deals of the so-called "Irangate" scandal to prolong the dispute and fan its fire.

Kuwait was aware of the danger areas. It realized that someone wascreating excuses to give the big powers a pretext for a military buildup in order to protect what they term their economic and strategic interests. Therefore, Kuwait acted quickly before and after the fifth Islamic conference to contain the danger. It worked on an Arab, Islamic, and international level to put an early end to the conflict through collective effort under the umbrella of international legality so that the continuation and escalation of the war would not pose a threat to security and peace throughout the world.

In all its moves and initiatives, Kuwait proceeded from the premise that the war should be stopped in the interest of the two combatants. The continuation of the war only gives the big powers a chance to interfere and foil the attempts being made by states that have a real interest in peace to intensify their efforts and use their friendships to extinguish the fire and end the conflict.

The Iraq-Iran war is of great concern to Kuwait, for it is being harmed the most by its continuation in light of its geographical location and Arab and Islamic affiliation. It is ridiculous to accuse Kuwait of being a party to the war; it has worked and continues to work for the sake of bringing the stands of the two warring factions closer. It also has carried out intensive diplomatic activity to ensure that the international community will shoulder its responsibilities and perform its duty to find an early end to a conflict which is about to turn into a horrible catastrophe for the Gulf and the world at large.

Kuwait, as testified by all, is adopting a policy characterized by wisdom and courage. Its success in running the Islamic summit conference was only a culmination of this policy and a confirmation of the sound basis on which it is founded. Although some have used every possible means to provoke Kuwait and encroach on its interests, the Kuwaiti leadership has the experience, tactics, and courage which qualify it to overcome such provocations and reckless actions.

It would be ridiculous to imagine that the Iranian leaders, who spent 7 years opposing peace and foiling peace initiatives, would not be interested in drawing up a new policy based on attracting fleets and increasing their concentrations in the region. This policy, which is based on considerations related to the strategic interests of the big powers at the expense of the Gulf governments and peoples, will eventually backfire.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Envoy, Message

JN031450 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] During a meeting with Hoseyn Sadeqi, the Iranian foreign minister's envoy, who is currently on a visit to the country, Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received a verbal message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati with regard to relations between the two friendly countries and the current regional situation. The minister and the Iranian envoy also exchanged opinions on various issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Haytham ibn Tariq ibn Taymur, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs; 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad al-Dhahab, chief of the minister's office; and 'Awad ibn Badr al- Shanfari, chief of the Arab Desk at the Foreign Ministry.

The Iranian envoy arrived in the country at a late hour this evening [as heard]. He was received by 'Awad ibn Badr al-Shanfari.

PDRY

Council of Ministers Views Protocols With USSR

EA022045 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this morning under its chairman Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau, to compiete discussion of the items on its agenda which it began at its regular meeting last Tuesday. The Council of Ministers reviewed several protocols signed with the USSR with regard to economic, technical and trade cooperation, commodity exchange for 1987, and other fields related to the third session of the sub-committee of agriculture and irrigation and the permanent committee for economic and technical cooperation.

The council also reviewed the results of the first meeting of the (?joint) cooperation committee between our two countries and the CEMA meeting which was held in Aden. Also reviewed were the results of the visit of the Council of Religions to the USSR Council of Ministers in addition to the protocol on sports cooper-

ation between the Supreme Sports Council and the state organ for youth and sports in the Hungarian People's Republic.

The council highly valued the positive results of these protocols which express the sound course of economic and social development in our country toward the socialist trend and firm links with socialist states and their commercial and economic markets. The council stressed the need of the relevant authorities to play an active role in following up the implementation of the clauses of the protocols.

The Council of Ministers also discussed a memorandum regarding the preparation of the annual plans for economic and social development for next year, 1988. The council entrusted all the ministries and central organs to lay down the appropriate arrangements for the preparation of the plans. It stressed the need for the trade union committee to participate in preparing the plans and discussing them with workers in various places of work and production so as to secure their active contribution in the accomplishment of the plans and the economic programs.

The council studied a report on the Minister of Public Health's participation in the 40th session of the WHO held in Geneva recently. The council also discussed several reports and issues on its agenda and adopted the necessary resolutions.

QATAR

Amir Receives Message From President Reagan

JN030907 Manama WAKH in English
1605 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] Doha, June 2 (GNA) — The Amir of Qatar H.H. Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Th message, which was delivered by U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Joseph Ghougassian during an audience with H.H. the amir this morning, dealt with the situation in the region in light of the latest developments and international efforts made to end the Iraq-Iran war in addition to the U.S. stance towards the Palestinian cause and efforts to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East, QNA learnt. The message dealt as well with bilateral relations.

Cabinet 'Strongly' Denounces Karami Death

JN031723 Manama WAKH in English
1557 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Doha, June 3 (GNA) — The Qatari Cabinet today strongly denounced the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami who, it said, served his Arab nation with perseverance and exerted the most faithful efforts to regain Lebanon's unity and defend its Arabism, sovereignty and independence.

In its weekly session under the chairmanship of H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the Cabinet called upon Lebanon to put an end to disintegration and continuous fighting.

The Cabinet agreed to Qatar's participation in the ninth meeting of the GCC trade cooperation committee to be held in Riyadh early next month. Qatar's delegation to the meeting will be headed by Communications and Transport Minister 'Abdallah ibn Nasir al-Suwaydi.

SAUDI ARABIA

Defense Minister Comments on U.S. Arms Purchase

LD030838 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0325 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Jun (SPA) — *Al-Nadwah* has commented on the statement made by his royal highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, during his recent inspection of units of the Armed Forces. It said the statement has filled in the details with regard to our Armed Forces and their defensive role in protecting our border, coastline, territorial waters, and airspace.

The paper referred to his highness' reply to a question about the attitude of certain U.S. Congressmen regarding the Kingdom's purchase of some U.S. defensive military equipment by saying that the U.S. people are friends of the Kingdom. However, whether the American people approve or do not approve the sale of arms to us is a matter which concerns the American people themselves. This will not stop us from procuring whatever arms our forces require. The paper said his highness was frank and expressed our country's firm stance with regard to its commitment to friendship with peoples to exchange interests and benefits under the umbrella of world peace and prosperity. Therefore it is up to the American people to decide on the sound attitude they should adopt which serves international cooperation and joint interests when considering the defensive military equipment the Kingdom has requested from the United States.

The paper called on the American people to be aware of their true interests and not to yield to Zionist pressures which are trying to stop the sale of the required weapons to the Kingdom. The paper said such Zionist attempts have been repeated many times, especially with regard to the AWACS aircraft and the military aircraft which the Kingdom later substituted with the British Tornado aircraft. The paper noted that Zionism has always tried to impose its ambitions and aims and has blackmailed the U.S. authorities whenever the matter concerned the sale of arms to the Kingdom or to any Arab country — a matter which inflicts more harm on the United States than on the Arabs.

In conclusion, *Al-Nadwah* reaffirmed that when the U.S. Administration strives to obtain Congressional approval for arms sales to the Kingdom and Zionism tries to foil such sales, we will not be the party which suffers. Quite simply, we pay cash for whatever we buy and can find whatever arms and equipment we need anywhere. This is what Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz pointed out on the eve of his departure to Europe to meet with the U.S. defense secretary.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

President Discusses Gulf With U.S. Senators

JN031831 Manama WAKH in English
1554 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 3 (GNA) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received here today U.S. Senators John Glenn of Ohio and John Warner of Virginia who are currently visiting the country as part of a Gulf tour.

President Shaykh Zayid told the American Senators that the Gulf region is "strategic and sensitive area" and its security and stability were basic factors for achieving world peace, adding that freedom of navigation in the Gulf was vital for world security and all states should cooperate to maintain calmness in the region.

He also said that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war was the source of danger regarding world stability, adding that all efforts should be coordinated to bring an end to this destructive war for the benefit of the people's of both countries.

Shaykh Zayid stressed the necessity of achieving peace and stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East and said that the creation of problems and setting fires in any region negatively affects international peace and security.

The president said that the world has become now a unity whose interests are interlinked and the world community should work together to stop and prevent the expansion of wars and the countries which have the capabilities to do so are called upon to shoulder their historical responsibilities.

Shaykh Zayid also stressed the necessity of exerting every possible effort to find a just solution to the Middle East problem "because the security of the region as a whole was inseparble. Violence and instability in any region effects all the other parts."

Shaykh Zayid called upon the United States which has friendly relations with the Arab countries to adopt clear, firm and just policies, either in the Gulf region or in the Middle East.

The president told the U.S. delegation that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states coordinate their policies within the Council to adopt initiatives and join regional policies after careful study.

Spokesman Denies Use of Chemical Weapons

JN031143 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that Iraq uses chemical weapons. In a statement to INA a short while ago, the spokesman said this report is baseless and far from the truth.

He added that Iraq has never employed chemical weapons and is under no pressure to do so. The spokesman stressed there was no Iraqi air activity over the Piranshahr area at the time Iran mentioned.

Concluding, he declared: The objective of these lies is to confuse efforts for peace, create pretexts to continue the war and acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and justify the use of chemical weapons by Iran.

Iran's Claim of Mimak Fighting 'Belittled'

JN031140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1103 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has belittled Iranian claims that Iraqi forces in the central sector in the Mimak area suffered a crushing blow.

In a statement to INA, the military spokesman said the Iranians interrupted their broadcasts to make these assertions, which reflect their despair over their Karbala' operations and their resort to these so-called victory actions. He noted that the rulers of Iran, whose backs were broken by their enormous losses, continue to deal in cheap lies, which have become their sole commodity. They have also confusing their foolish wishes with bitter reality.

The military spokesman explained that in fact, an Iranian force, estimated to be an infantry regiment of Khomeyni guards, tried to attack an Iraqi forward company in the central sector in the Mimak area. The Iraqi forces fired on the force with various weapons, and managed to wipe out the bulk of it.

In conclusion, the Iraqi military spokesman said: We did not want to refer to that minor battle — the likes of which occur every day — had it not been for the hue and cry raised by the Iranian media, which failed to mention Iranian losses. That is a clear sign that Iran's rulers are in a truly desperate position.

Communique No 2,697 Details 2-3 Jun Combat

JN031652 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,697 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 June 87]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces' morale, capabilities, and efficiency are increasing each day, affirming their invincible determination to defeat the forces of arrogance and injustice represented by the hireling Iranian rulers. Our valiant forces are everywhere, and are prepared to inflict bitter defeat on the Khomeyniite remnants, ruin their intentions, and send their rogues to the fires of hell.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. An enemy force from the charlatan Khomeyni Guards estimated as an infantry regiment tried to attack our forward positions in the Mimak area in the II Army Corps central sector. Our valiant forces confronted them with various types of weapons and annihilated the bulk of the attacking force and inflicted losses on its weapons and equipment.

2. The brave pilots of our helicopter gunships flew 26 combat missions against enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the operational areas, inflicting important losses on the rascal aggressors. Our helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. Twelve enemy boats tried to approach the loading platform at the port of Al-'Amiq last night. Our brave naval units and the valiant port force confronted them with various weapons, compelling them to flee.

4. Artillery and tank units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah dealt strong blows to enemy units, sources of fire, and other fortified targets, inflicting fresh losses on the rascal Khomeyniites. Several sources of fire were silenced and a number of infantry positions were destroyed. A heavy machinegun and four ammunition dumps were demolished, and five shovels [preceding word in English] were damaged.

5. A rogue was killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. A gun was destroyed and an ammunition dump was demolished in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 June 1987

Baghdad Cites Report on Montazeri Demotion

JN031411 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] The Iranian organization Mojahedin-e Khalq has said that Khomeyni has made an official decision dismissing Montazeri as his successor. He has instead named him an acting leader, a title that replaces the normal official one he used to have, that of successor and future leader of the revolution.

The organization's office in Paris distributed a statement today saying that the title of acting leader, as used by officials in the Iranian regime, does not entitle Montazeri to succeed Khomeyni on the latter's death. It also notes that Montazeri will keep his new title only while Khomeyni is alive.

In statements to the INA office, the organization's sources said the group's previous reports that differences among officials in the Iranian regime had created a volatile situation were true. Moves had been made to dismiss Montazeri, especially after

Mahdi Hashemi, his relative by marriage and his office director, as well as his brother Hadi Hashemi, were arrested and accused of conspiring against the Iranian regime.

Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit

JN031512 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA) — Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit to Iraq slated to last several days. He was received on arrival by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and by some other Foreign Ministry officials.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN031836 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca this evening. They discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them in all fields. They also reviewed the regional situation, with emphasis on the Iranian aggression and that regime's insistence on continuing its war with Iraq.

The meeting was also attended by Hisham al-Zahawi, the Foreign Ministry under secretary; the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Organizations and Second International Departments; and the Cuban ambassador in Baghdad.

Peres Accuses Likud of Character Assassination

TA041034 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has attacked the Likud for what he called attempts to destroy his character by lies. Peres was speaking in Tel Aviv this morning to a group of 2,000 retired Labor Party activists. On the line now from Tel Aviv, Sabra Chartrand:

[Chartrand] A very agitated and angry Shim'on Peres lashed into the Likud this morning, charging that that party in fact has ceased to exist and has been replaced by the leaders of Gush Emunim, Tehiya, and the religious parties. Shouting at his audience, Peres accused the Likud of trying to destroy his image by saying that his mother was an Arab and by disseminating lies throughout the Israeli press. In response, Peres entreatied his audience: Don't feel pity for me!

Turning to his proposal for an international peace conference, Peres warned: If the Likud wins the next election there will be no chance for peace talks with Arab states. Is it forbidden, Peres asked, to think about the opportunity to achieve normalization? I don't have security in my pocket, he said. I am not Peace Now but can't we take the chance to check the possibility? Peres told his supporters that he would ask the United States, France, and Great Britain to sign an agreement prior to the peace conference guaranteeing that the conference would not be able to impose a solution on Israel. He also said the first item on the agenda of talks between Israel and Jordan should be economic issues.

As for the interparty conflict between Peres and Knesset Member Abba Eban, Peres said: If Eban can criticize me, then I, too, can criticize him.

France's Raimond Meets Palestinian Figures

JN031102 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1430 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond met with seven Palestinian figures from the West Bank in the French Consulate in Jerusalem this afternoon. These figures are Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, former Hebron Mayor Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, *Al-Fajr* Chief Editor Hanna Sinyurah, Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah from Nabulus, Dr Sa'ib 'Uraqyat from Al-Najah University, Dr Sari Nusaybah from East Jerusalem, and the head of the Arab Journalists Association, Radwan abu 'Ayyash.

Afterward, the French foreign minister said he sensed some pessimism among the Palestinians over conditions in the region. This was especially true in reference to the many initiatives and proposals that have been put forward in the past 20 years. They were designed to settle the regional crisis, but, in fact, there was never any movement toward a real and honorable solution. The French minister said: I have reaffirmed to them that France supports the convocation of an international conference despite the fact that in practical terms, there is a stalemate on this issue.

Our correspondent, Ibrahim Shahid, reports that the Palestinians who met the French minister submitted a signed six-point memorandum reflecting their desire to settle the regional conflict. At the same time, they expressed their support for an international conference attended by the two superpowers, the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, and all the parties concerned, including the PLO. The Palestinians believe the international conference is a way to establish regional peace.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj did not sign the memorandum. In a statement to our correspondent, he said: We attended this meeting as private citizens and not as official representatives of any party. He added: I saw no need to sign the memorandum. Frayj continued: We have reiterated to the French minister that the PLO has the right to choose or delegate those it wants to represent it at any international conference that may be held.

Jewish Youth Stabbed by Arab in Hebron

TA041115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] A Jewish youth in Hebron was stabbed in the stomach this afternoon. His wounds are described as light. Our correspondents Avshalom Ginosar and Moti Amir report that the youth, Tuvya Peres, 14, was on his way to the Bet Hadassah building. A young Arab lunged at him without warning, but he bent over and was only slightly injured. The Arab fled and the Jewish youth took the knife with him to the Bet Hadassah building.

Explosion in Kefar Sava Causes No Casualties

TA041148 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1130 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] A small explosive charge went off this afternoon at a bus station near the Brenner School in Kefar Sava. There were no casualties and no damage was done. The bomb was placed inside a pipe, and shrapnel was scattered in the blast. As we said, there were no casualties. The police have begun searching Kefar Sava.

W. Bank Youth Movement Leader Deported to Jordan

TA041122 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Jihad Musayimi, a resident of the Balatah refugee camp who was a leader of the local Shabiba [youth movement] and was responsible for violent disturbances there, was deported to Jordan today.

6 W. Bank Residents Under Administrative Detention

TA040748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0700 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Last night the security forces placed six residents of Judaea and Samaria, most of them active in the Fatah youth movement, under administrative detention. George Hazbun, one of the detainees, was deputy mayor of Betlehem and a leading activist in the Palestinian Communist party. Our correspondent

Arye Gus reports that the party has been busy preparing for the 20th anniversary of the 6-day War. Pamphlets were distributed last night calling for Arab unity and a general strike on 5 June.

Paper Views Shin Bet Dealings With Palestinians

TA021423 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
31 May 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Nafsu Exoneration Raises Questions"]

[Text] The trial and exoneration of Israeli officer 'Izzat Nafsu has once again focused attention on the policies and methods of Israel's secret police (General Security Services) also known as the Shin Bet.

'Izzat Nafsu, an officer in the Israeli Army, is a member of the tiny Muslim Circassian community in the Galilee. He was serving in the Israeli army during the Litani invasion of south Lebanon in 1978. During this period he met a PLO military officer, apparently as part of a covert operation. Later he was questioned and forced to sign a confession. On the basis of this false confession, Nafsu was convicted of treason and espionage and was sent to prison on an 18-year prison term.

Last week, and after serving seven years of his term, the Israeli High Court exonerated Nafsu on most of the charges against him and ordered that he be set free. In the process of the trial it became clear that the Shin Bet had used physical and psychological torture against Nafsu in order to extract from him the false confession.

As a result of this and other High Court decisions, the Israeli intelligence service has come under scathing criticism from the legal community, from members of the Knesset, and the public at large. One of the main reasons for the uproar in Israel is the fear among average Israelis that if a member of the Israeli Army can be framed in this way, no civilian is immune from the Shin Bet's long arm. Anyone whose politcal ideas or personality are not pleasing to Israeli leaders can be framed in a similar way. It may be impossible to tell whether criticism of Israel's secret service would ever have been voiced had it not been that Israeli soldiers were involved. The one thing that is clear is that 'Izzat Nafsu is not a unique case. The Israeli press has already quoted a number of Israeli sources as saying that there are hundreds of cases similar to Nafsu's.

During all this discussion, very little is said about the practices of the Shin Bet in questioning Palestinians. In fact, Israeli officials are opposing any reform of the Shin Bet because of its alleged excellent record in fighting 'terrorism'!!!
Palestinian and Israeli attorneys have repeatedly documented the use of torture in the Shin Bet's dealings with Palestinian prisoners during interrogation. The secretary general of Amnesty International, who visited the area recently, also pointed out irregularities in the Shin Bet's work. Prisoners can be held incommunicado for up to 18 days. The interrogators wear no name tag, number or any other identifying sign. So, it becomes virtually impossible to identify them. Amnesty has repeatedly documented that these are conditions under which torture is likely to occur.

If the Israeli Shin Bet is doing what it is doing in Israel despite the many safeguards that exist for Israelis, how can we expect conditions to be any better in the occupied territories, where there are no safeguards and where the victims are not members of the same community? May Gold help us.

AL-FAJR on Changes in Palestinian Nationalism

TA021441 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
31 May 87 p 5

[Article by Managing Editor Da'ud Kuttab: "The Choice Is A Palestinian Choice

[Text] Twenty years of Israeli occupation have had a lasting impact on both the land of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Palestinian people.

Although more than 52 percent of Palestinian land has fallen under direct Israeli control and despite the fact that a political settlement seems very far away, Palestinians today are increasingly confident in themselves.

The years of occupation and confrontation have done more to enhance and strengthen Palestinian national identity than the years of Turkish and British colonialization, or of Jordanian rule. Whereas none of the previous countries that have ruled the area have allowed an independent Palestinian identity to emerge, the expansionist Israeli occupation has forced Palestinians to support their own national movement.

Driven by Zionist ideology, Israeli Jews have approached the West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of their Jewish dream. The occupied territories were therefore considered 'liberated' territory. Jewish settlement has risen and the economic and geographic structure of the West Bank has been treated in a way that envisions no future cessation of Israeli rule over the 1.5 million Palestinians.

The style of this occupation, which aims at uprooting Palestinians from their own land and replacing them with individuals whose only qualification is that they belong to the Jewish faith, has created in response a strong and viable Palestinian nationalist movement.

This Palestinian nationalism differs from the mood prevalent in the Middle East in the 1960s. The pan-Arab feeling that saw its hero in the late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir is gone. The Palestinian people have largely lost hope in salvation from the Arab world or in the ideology of pan-Arabism. The strongest sentiment among Palestinians today is toward independence. Palestinians in the occupied territories count only on themselves and their fellow Palestinians in the diaspora. Gone are the days when Palestinians could be fooled by Arab rhetoric or promises of religious jihad (holy war). Young Palestinians today make up their own minds independently of parents or community leaders. This was made clear when Jordan's King Husayn broke relations with the PLO in 1986. Certain community and traditional leaders who went to the palace to show support for the king were opposed in the occupied territories by members of their own families and communities.

But while the choice for Palestinians today is strictly a Palestinian choice, the residents of the occupied territories have had their own effect on the PLO leadership. The realistic and pragmatic mood that has become the trademark of the PLO since 1974 has been the result of the realism of the people of the occupied territories. And, while many Arab leaders act as though Israel doesn't exist on the political map, Palestinian leaders have shown a sense of pragmatism that reflects the real situation in the area.

While the Palestinian population has shown realism regarding the State of Israel in its pre-1967 borders, the young generation is showing signs of restlessness. Palestinians under the age of 30 make up more than 70 percent of the West Bank and Gaza population. These young people who have grown up under Israeli occupation take a much more radical approach to the conflict than older Palestinians and an even more radical approach than the PLO leadership. Having grown up under the nose of the Israeli war machine, young Palestinians have come to the conclusion that, in the world they inhabit, might is right and the only way to survive and flourish is to be strong and violent.

Diplomatic missions and political initiatives don't mean anything to these young people, who have seen only more oppression as Israel speaks of peace. Although for the present time this generation has strong feelings for the PLO and its Chairman 'Arafat (the military resistance of the PLO in Lebanon helped a lot here), they have grown impatient with the niceties of political diplomacy. If they see that the political initiatives of the PLO are producing no results, they will force the PLO into a more radical posture or else they will go looking for a more radical leadership within the PLO.

As to the day to day life of Palestinians, the one strategy all are agreed upon is the need to stay put on our land and to work at building the infrastructure for the future Palestinian state. Because of demographic factors, Palestinians are in a much stronger position in the long run than Israelis. But in the meantime Palestinians know they must do everything possible to change the status quo. The continued absence of a solution only plays into Israeli hands, which gain from the occupation without being forced to pay the political price both locally and internationaly for that occupation.

WAKH: King Husayn To Meet With PLO Officials

JN040713 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jun (WAKH) — Informed Palestinian sources said Jordan's King Husayn will meet with PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Muhammad Milhim today. This will be the first meeting between the king and Palestinian officials since the abrogation of the Amman Agreement.

In today's issue, the Abu Dhabi newspaper *Al-Ittihad* cites these Palestinian sources as saying that Jordanian and Palestinian circles believe this meeting will resolve Jordan-PLO differences and create a final formula for the PLO's participation in the international Middle East peace conference. According to these sources, this will be a decisive meeting for it will determine Palestinian relations with Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon, the sides that are to participate in such a conference.

Al-Rifa'i, Delegation Return From Athens Visit

JN031424 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman from Athens today after a 3-day official visit to Greece. During his stay, he held talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. He was received at Queen 'Alia International Airport by a number of ministers and senior officials, as well as the Greek charge d'affaires in Amman. Returning with the prime minister were Education Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, cabinet adviser Dr Fawwaz Abu al-Ghanam, and Director of thePrime Minister's Office Aktham al-Qusus.

AL-DUSTUR Views Visit

JN031717 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jun 87 p 1

[Editorial: "A Positive Stand and Developing Relations"]

[Text] During his talks with senior Greek officials, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i reiterated that the Arab states' demands are as clear as their rights and as just as their causes. It does not matter whether these demands concern Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories or finding an immediate peaceful end to the Iraq-Iran war, he added.

The historic Greek support for Arab causes and the stands of successive Greek governments toward recognizing Israel have laid and continue to lay the strongest foundations for the development of Arab-Greek and Jordanian-Greek relations. These relations have witnessed greatly enhanced cooperation in the past 10 years.

Hence, Jordan has always placed great hope on the position adopted by Greece, which has shown an understanding of Arab issues. It has also been encouraged by the positive role played by this friendly state within the framework of the EC, as recently confirmed by the efforts undertaken by Greece to prompt its European partners to adopt advanced qualitative stands on the Middle East.

We hope Zayd al-Rifa'i's visit to Greece will further develop and enhance friendly bilateral relations in various areas of economic, trade, and technical cooperation. We also hope that this visit will consolidate the positive Greek position adopted with regard to Arab issues, the foremost being the Palestinian question. Not only has Greece contributed to formulating a better European position on the Palestinian question, but it has also done its utmost to prevent the EC from backing down on its previous positive stands toward this just Arab cause.

Syria's Khaddam: Karami Killing 'Political' Issue

NC041004 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] The criminal assassination of martyr Rashid Karami by the regime's tools, Army intelligence, and the Lebanese Forces remains the focus of attention.

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has stressed that the top priority now is to unmask the culprits, criminals, and those benefitting from the assassination of martyr Rashid Karami. Politicians who met with Khaddam following martyr Rashid Karami's burial conveyed this position. Addressing some of those who attended the expanded Islamic meeting, and who colluded with Amin al-Jumayyil, Khaddam added: You buried Rashid Karami before he was actually interred. He criticized the method and way followed [not further specified]. He said: You will fall one after the other if this policy continues, and we will keep on searching for an unknown conspirator. Is it right that the prime minister should be assassinated under these circumstances when attention is focused on other issues? Prime Minister Karami was not a common man but the head of the Lebanese Government. He was killed because of his position and political stands. The issue is political, not judicial.

Political sources quoted Khaddam as saying: It is not right to describe the culprits as persons unknown and to keep silent about what has happened. Those responsible for the assassination must be identified. His blood will not be in vain. All are aware of the political circumstances under which he was assassinated, as well as his positions and the parties that antagonized him.

Junblatt on Karami Assassination, Attitude of West

NC031815 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Excerpts] After attending the funeral of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Tripoli, PSP leader Walid Junblatt, accompanied by [former Ministers] Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah, went to Zgharta at the head of a PSP delegation and met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah. Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi was also present. They discussed the current situation in light of the criminal assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami. [passage omitted]

PSP leader Walid Junblatt noted that Karami was the basic pillar of dialogue in Lebanon and a moderate man open to all, adding that with his murder all is lost.

In an interview in Zgharta with the Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, he said: This dreadful event has touched the entire Lebanese people. If the full facts are not revealed, it will mean, in my opinion, a continuation of the plot to fragment Lebanon and involve it anew in plans similar to the 17 May draft agreement, thus thwarting national reconciliation.

Junblatt added that Lebanon faces a new whirlpool of division. He pessimistically said: What can the world offer us beyond good wishes? My viewpoint is known. When the murderer of Tony Franjiyah, the man who collaborated with Israel, and the person who divided the country is brought to justice, dialogue can take place in Lebanon.

When asked if he thought there were other signs of Lebanon's fragmentation following the murder of nationalist leader Rashid Karami, Walid Junblatt declared: It appears that by assassinating Karami, the pro-Israeli trend in the Lebanese Forces and the Army wants us to return to the vicious circle of sectarian fighting and our country's fragmentation. This is my firm belief. I feel the statement I made yesterday was clear, and I will not take a single letter from it.

Replying to a question on the Western attitude toward Lebanon following his European tour, Junblatt said: What can the West offer us if we in this homeland cannot reach a genuine internal reconciliation and serious political reform? We can only expect good wishes from the West, no more, no less. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Say Birri Holding U.S. Hostages

NC031735 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] A short while ago a responsible source in the Lebanese Forces reacted to Minister Nabih Birri's accusations concerning the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The source said Birri made his charges without waiting for the results of ongoing investigations and without relying on any proof or tangible evidence. The spokesman affirmed that Birri is trying to foment confusion, implementing a well-planned scheme that began with Karami's murder.

The Lebanese Forces remind Birri that he, as justice minister, has appointed an investigatory committee but has reached his verdict before the committee has even met. Birri established this body through extortion and coercion. The Lebanese Forces call for the formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate the incident, in addition to the military and judiciary committees, so everything can be cleared up. The Forces demand that Birri present proof of his allegations to these committees. If he does not, the Forces will lodge a complaint against him, charging him with slander and vilification.

The Lebanese Forces have assailed Minister Birri, accusing him of influencing state decisions and using extortion to shore up his failing status within his sect. The Lebanese Forces brand Birri a terrorist who has masterminded airplane hijackings, deprived people of their freedom, and negotiated the hostage issue. The Forces accuse Birri of holding the four U.S. teachers in the southern suburb [of Beirut], practicing all sorts of terrorism, and depriving people in West Beirut of their rights.

The Lebanese Forces' source went on to say that Birri is playing a role set out for him, creating sedition and confusion, instead of taking responsible stands that would rescue the country from catastrophe and tragedy.

Security Sources Say Army State of Alert Lifted

NC040922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] According to a security source, Measure No 3, which placed the Lebanese Army on alert, has been rescinded as of today.

Shatila Residents Appeal to Syrian President

NC040444 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Violent clashes have taken place between Palestinians and the Amal Movement along the Tanburit lines in eastern Sidon following a Palestinian attack on Amal positions at 2315 yesterday.

In another development, residents of Beirut's Shatila camp have appealed for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's intercession to persuade the Amal Movement to lift the military siege imposed on the camp for more than 6 months.

In a statement issued last night, inhabitants of the camp asked the Syrian president to act according to the ruling Ba'th Party's principles to normalize relations between the Palestinian camps and neighboring areas. The statement emphasized that the dry season must be used to rebuild the camp, which was completely destroyed during various bombardments, noting that the habitable homes lack both drinking water and electricity.

Lebanese Forces, Al-Jumayyil Security Men Clash

NC041141 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] According to a security source, members of the Lebanese Forces clashed with President Amin al-Jumayyil's security men near the Abu al-Zuz Falafil shop in the Sinn al-Fil area on Tuesday night. An argument between the Lebanese Forces and one of President al-Jumayyil's security men apparently developed into a shooting incident. Joseph al-Khazin and Gabi al-Khazin, alternate members of the Central Security Committee at the race track, were wounded and taken to Al-Rum Hospital for treatment. Joseph al-Khazin was seriously injured, having been hit by six bullets between his feet and stomach, while Gabi al-Khazin was struck in the feet.

Government Reportedly Closes Abu Nidal Offices

JN040709 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4-5 June 87 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni in Tunis]

[Text] The Syrian Government has closed down offices of the renegade Palestinian Abu Nidal group in Damascus and ordered a big number of the faction's members to leave the country immediately, accoridng to Palestinian sources here.

The Syrian clampdown on the group started on June 1 when security forces took over Abu Nidal's offices in the Yarmouk camp and confiscated all of their contents, including the group's documents, the well-informed sources told the *Jordan Times*.

The Syrian measures, according to the same sources, included an order to members of the faction who do not hold Syrian passports to leave the country. Members of the group who hold Syrian nationality were warned that "they would face deportation or imprisonment if they resumed their activities as part of the faction."

The sources said Libya was trying to mediate with Damascus to give the group's members time to collect their things before leaving the country but the Syrian Government had been firm in pointing out that it wanted immediate departure of Abu Nidal supporters who held non-Syrian passports.

Libya has reportedly asked Syria to provide those asked to leave with a chance to find destinations of their choice, but the Syrian authorities have decided to deport them to countries according to their nationality, (or more accurately, their passports), the sources added.

The Syrian Government has also informed representatives of the group in Damascus that no money would be allowed to be paid the remaining members of the faction.

Palestinian observers here were not surprised by the Syrian measure since the group's relations with Damascus has remarkably deteriorated following the faction's opposition to the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal militia's siege of Palestinians in Beirut and South Lebanon camps last autumn. Moreover Abu Nidal fighters had joined in the defence of the camps along with forces of Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah and had turned down a Syrian proposal to turn against Fatah in the camps. Damascus was also upset when the group opened a dialogue with Fatah and showed willingness to rejoin the PLO ranks during the Palestine National Council in Algiers in April.

Other observers said the Syrian step was part of Damascus' efforts to disassociate itself from extremist organisations in a bid to improve its relations with the West.

Vice President Khaddam Returns From Karami Funeral

JN031727 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam came back to Damascus this evening after attending the funeral of the Lebanese prime minister, martyr Rashid Karami. He also conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's condolences to the Karami family in Tripoli. Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash, Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh, and Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil also returned with Khaddam.

Commentary on 'Cowardly Operation' Against Karami

JN031555 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Today Lebanon bade farewell to one of its faithful sons, a great leader, a noble figure in the Lebanese nationalist movement, a prominent Arab leader, a distinguished symbol of unity in Lebanon, an effective factor for Lebanese national accord, and an active advocate of dialogue based on reason, logic, and nationalism, instead of a destructive one based on guns, bombs, blood, and fire. The man is the martyr Rashid Karami, prime minister of Lebanon, who fell as a result of a criminal, heinous, and cowardly operation, targeted not only against him but also against what he stood for: wisdom, vision, and concern for Lebanon's survival and the continuity and coexistence of its sons. For him, this would have been under a national accord and a just system that guaranteed equality for all, which would have been a solution for Lebanon's problems and crises through dialogue, not fratricide. It was also directed against Karami's faith in an Arab Lebanon, in terms of its identity, orientation, and role, as well as his belief that Lebanon's enemy is the racist, aggressive Zionist entity and its strategic ally, U.S. imperialism.

If the question asked after every crime is who benefits, the answer in the case of martyr Karami's assassination is this: Those who lost and were hurt by this crime are Lebanon, its people, its unity, coexistence, the cause of national accord, the use of dialogue, the rejection of fratricide, and the avoidance of any resort to armed gangs, private armies, statelets, emirates, and cantons.

Therefore, it is impossible that those who conceived of the crime, planned it, ordered it, chose the instrument, and set a time for it can be Lebanese, in the true sense of the word, or someone who supports Lebanon's welfare, continuity, the coexistence of its sons, and the liberation of its territory from Israeli occupation. The beneficiaries of the crime are those who started the fire of conflict in Lebanon more than 10 years ago to distract the Arabs from their battle against their common enemy and to strike at the idea of a state, which conflicts with the notion of the racist, aggressive, expansionist Zionist entity.

Those who gained from the crime are known. The battle against them is long and continuous. The instrument that carried out the attempt against a holy symbol of Lebanese nationalism and national unity and a great Arabist will not remain secret. Those

behind the crime will not be able to hide or protect those who carried it out. They will never escape just punishment and the anger of all Lebanese who harbor the minimum level of nationalist sentiment and love for their country. Those who chose the man and set the time to execute their crime against Lebanon, the march of national accord, and Lebanon's unity and Arabism — pinning on this crime hopes contrary to the interests of Lebanon and its people and contrary to the interests of Syria, the Arabs, and the Arab struggle against Zionism and imperialism — will never achieve their objectives. Their crime will never help them approach their goal.

On the contrary, the crime will reveal their plans, objectives, and tools. It will rally all Lebanese nationalists of goodwill, who are concerned about Lebanon's unity and continuity on an unrestricted front. They will not retreat from the formula of coexistence, national accord, dialogue, Arab identity, and hostility to Israel and imperialism.

During his life, martyr Rashid Karami was strong with his enemies and those of Lebanon. He will grow stronger now, after his martyrdom. After all, the principles and ideas he defended and died for bring together nationalist Lebanese concerned about their homeland and its unity, continuity, Arab identity, the brotherhood of its sons, and the coexistence of its sects. The blood of martyr Karami, shed to herald new sedition and bloody fratricide, will be a disaster for the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs.

'Isam al-Na'ib Receives Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam

JN040606 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Damascus — Yesterday, 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, under secretary at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Talks centered on regional developments, bilateral relations, and other issues of common interest. The meeting was also attended by the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Keshtmand Heads High-Level Delegation to Iraq

LD040628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Kabul, June 3, *Bakhtar* — A high-ranking Afghan delegation headed by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the PDPA and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, left Kabul for Iraq for an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Iraq.

The members of the delegation consist of Sayyed Amanuddin Amin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mawlawi 'Abdol Jamil Zarif, minister of Islamic affairs and trust properties, Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce and Farid Zarif, deputy foreign minister of the DRA.

The chairman of the Council of Minister was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo members and secretaries of the Central Committee of the PDPA, several other Politburo members and members of the Council of Ministers.

Deputy Foreign Minister Views USSR Friendship

LD040640 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Kabul, June 3, *Bakhtar* — The Soviet Union was the first country which recognised the independence of Afghanistan and signed the treaty of mutual friendship and cooperation in October 1919. By doing so, it manifested that it is the supporter of the independence, territorial integrity and progress of Afghanistan and assists the Afghan people in achieving progress and social justice.

This was stated to a *Bakhtar* reporter by Farid Zarif, deputy foreign minister of the DRA, on the 68th anniversary celebration of the Afghan-Soviet friendship.

The noble efforts of the two countries, he continued to say, for concluding an agreement in 1919 for establishing friendly and diplomatic relations produced great positive effects for the both countries.

These fraternal relations, said Farid Zarif, entered into a new qualitative phase with the victory of the April Revolution of 1978 and by signing the friendship, cooperation and good-neighborly treaty in December 1987. These relations developed day by day in the interest of the parties, governments and the peoples of both countries.

The full support given by the Soviet Union to the policy of national reconciliation aimed at ending war and the restoration of peace in the country has once again demonstrated that the Soviet Union is in favour of the earliest solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the restoration of peace in the country, Farid Zarif stressed.

Transports, Escort Planes Take Off for Jaffna

BK041144 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1135 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] A transport plane carrying relief supplies has left Bangalore for paradropping of materials over Jaffna Peninsula in Sri Lanka. Some representatives of international media are accompanying the aircraft. The relief supplies have been inspected by a large group of Indian and foreign journalists. The aircraft is being escorted to ensure its defense in case it is attacked while on flights.

The Sri Lankan high commissioner, Mr Tilakaratne, was called to the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today and was informed by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh, about India's decision to paradrop relief supplies.

An official spokesman said that India has taken the decision in keeping with its commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to the long-suffering and beleaguered people of Jaffna. He said the action was taken consequent upon the refusal of the Sri Lankan authorities to allow unarmed and unescorted Indian boats carrying humanitarian supplies to go to Jaffna yesterday. The boats were accompanied by the officials of the Indian Red Cross and representatives of the international media.

Relief Supplies Air-Dropped

BK041238 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Indian aircraft has successfully paradropped relief supplies over Jaffna Peninsula in Sri Lanka. They are now on their way back to Bangalore. The five transport planes were escorted by four Mirage aircraft. They carried 25 tons of supplies consisting of items like wheat, rice, pulses, tea, and medicines. Thirty-five representatives of national and international media accompanied the planes. [passage omitted]

Relief Boats Return; Sri Lanka Condemned

BK040102 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0035 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Colombo has prevented the convoy of Indian relief vessels from proceeding toward Jaffna on threat of action by the Sri Lankan Navy. The relief vessels returned to Rameswaram late last night. A Sri Lankan naval commander in the area told the convoy to remain where it was and not to enter Sri Lankan territorial waters. He said he had been directed by the government in Colombo to protect Sri Lankan territorial sovereignty and would do so to the best of his ability, as he put it.

India has strongly condemned the Sri Lankan Government's decision. An official statement in New Delhi says in the light of the implicit threat by the Sri Lankan Navy, it was clear that Colombo was determined not to allow the relief mission to proceed further. There was, therefore, no alternative for the relief convoy, which was on a purely humanitarian mission, but to return to Rameswaram. The statement adds that the Government of India strongly condemns the action taken by the Sri Lankan gunboats in forcibly preventing the convoy from carrying urgently needed essential items and medicines to Jaffna. It says the government and the people of India are deeply concerned at the continuing hardship inflicted by the Government of Sri Lanka on the Tamil people in defiance of world public opinion. We cannot remain indifferent spectators to the plight of the people of Jaffna, many of whom have in recent years fled their homes to seek safety and refuge in India.

The secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, has said Colombo's unreasonable refusal to permit Indian relief supplies for the beleaguered people of Jaffna on humanitarian grounds is a further proof of what he called the Sri Lankan Government's genocidal intentions. In a statement he described as totally false Sri Lankan radio and media's assertion that enough food was available to the people of Jaffna. He appreciated the Indian Government's efforts to send the relief supplies.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M. G. Ramachandran, in a statement in Madras said Sri Lanka's threat to sink the boats carrying relief supplies reveals what he termed the inhuman mentality of those in power in the island. He also commended Mr Rajiv Gandhi's efforts to rush foodstuffs and medicines to the Tamils in Jaffna. He said Tamil Nadu will extend all cooperation to the center in its efforts. Mr Ramachandran said his government will contribute 4 crore rupees to the prime minister's relief fund created for the suffering people in Sri Lanka. The Karnataka government has also sanctioned 50 lakh rupees as its contribution.

AFP on Convoy 'Farce'

BK040657 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 4 Jun 87

[By Barry Parker]

[Text] Rameswaram, India, June 4 (AFP) — None of the hundreds of cheering people who saw off India's hastily put together relief convoy for the Jaffna Tamils were present here when the 19 small fishing smacks limped back home late Wednesday.

The ramshackle vessels, flying the Red Cross flag, were still loaded with food and medical supplies for Sri Lanka's Tamils as they returned some 10 hours later to the empty wooden jetty and sandy beaches of this tiny port on the southern tip of the subcontinent.

The commander of a Sri Lankan naval task force had warned that he had orders to defend the island's territorial waters, and India had pulled out its convoy, leaving the two governments to discuss the issue at an unspecified date.

India used a 75-metre coast guard ship, the *Vikram*, to control the operation. It was disguised as a civilian vessel and was supported by an offshore firefighting ship.

Two helicopters, one navy and one coast guard, and a coast guard spotter plane circled overhead, but none of it appeared to impress the Sri Lankans.

The only ones who seem to have gained anything from the exercise were Rameswaram's fishermen — about twice their normal profit, according to a local government official.

But they had let it be known through the president of their association, Stanislas Fernando, that they were less than happy riding heavy seas while the Indian government representative, D.K. Maitra, and Sri Lankan Navy Commander S. S. Samarasekera, exchanged diplomatic niceties over ship-to-ship telephone.

The "humanitarian aid" operation was said to have been under Indian Red Cross auspices, but its motives earned the "deep concern" of the International Red Cross in Geneva.

The head of the Red Cross delegation, Moti Lal Gupta, was unable until the very end to give journalists a list of what medical supplies he intended to take to Jaffna.

Journalists' fears that they were being taken on a political and propaganda exercise to embarrass Colombo increased when they saw the ramshackle inshore fishing vessels at anchor in Rameswaram's tiny port Tuesday evening.

Sri Lanka had already officially warned that the aid convoy would not be allowed into its waters, and the fishermen had been bombarded with leaflets Tuesday with threats that they would be blown up.

It was only late Tuesday night that Indian government officials struck a deal to pay the owners of 25 vessels less than 200 dollars for what was planned as a 24-hour trip.

But nothing had been loaded and no sailing time set. Wednesday morning, barefoot labourers finally began dumping sacks of rice and other food into just 19 smacks that had seen better days.

Their paint was badly peeling, their metal rusting, and some had only palm frond roofs on their tiny wheelhouses.

The smacks could hold about 38 tonnes of relief supplies, Indian officials said, and another 962 tonnes were waiting in warehouses here to be shipped at a later date.

The convoy set sail under a blazing sun at about 0800 GMT, but a mixup involving the correspondents' boats delayed the mission by another couple of hours before they were finally taken aboard the *Vikram*, which did not even have enough seats for half the correspondents.

Despite the 38 degree centrigrade (100.4 fahrenheit) heat and maximum humidity, water supplies were desperately low, and Captain S.S. Rai had to ration it strictly.

When the wind strengthened and the seas grew heavy, the crew had to request people "not to vomit in the sinks, but in special buckets or toilets."

The sinks were blocked and the mission was turning to farce.

Several members of the press corps had to be admitted to the sick bay as darkness fell on the Palk Strait.

When Mr Maitra finally abandoned the bid to run the convoy to Jaffna, he faced a barrage of questions.

He said India had not been humiliated, the mission was not a failure, and it had not been an exercise in politics and propaganda.

In New Delhi, the Indian Government issued a press release strongly condemning Sri Lanka "forcibly preventing" the unarmed aid convoy from sailing to Jaffna.

More Relief Money Pledged

BK040018 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] The Kerala cabinet today decided to contribute 10 lakh rupees to the Tamils of the Jaffna Peninsula. The chief minister, Mr E.K. Nayanar, told newsmen that the aid will be given through the center.

The ruling AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] Party in Tamil Nadu has also donated 10 lakh rupees. The announcement was made in Madras by the founder leader of the party, Mr M.G. Ramachandran. The DMK has contributed 1 lakh rupees. The Krishak Bharaty Cooperative donated 1 lakh rupees to the prime minister's relief fund as its share to provide relief to the Jaffna sufferers. This was announced by the cooperative chairman, Mr Bansilal Mehta, in New Delhi today.

Gandhi Inaugurates New State of Goa 3 Jun

BK040022 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Excerpts] The prime minister today launched an afforestation drive near the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Baroach District of Gujarat. It is part of the 1,400 crore rupee program to maintain the ecological balance in the Narmada Valley. [passage omitted]

Later, the prime minister formally launched the new state of Goa. The inaugural function was held at (Kampal) grounds in the capital city of Panaji. Mr Gandhi unveiled a huge map of Goa and a new state emblem by pushing a button marking the formal inauguration of the 25th and the (?youngest) state of the Indian union.

Addressing a mammoth meeting, the prime minister congratulated the people of Goa for the hard work for the development of the territory in the post-liberation period.

Curfew Relaxed in Meerut; Official Death Toll 96

BK031642 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] In Meerut, curfew was relaxed for 10 hours from 0800 this morning in Sadar Bazaar, Lal Kurthi, Kanker Khera, Delhi

Gate, and Transport Nagar police station areas following steady improvement in the situation. It was relaxed for 4 hours in rotation in the remaining two police station areas. An official spokesman said in Lucknow that the relaxation period passed off peacefully.

The spokesman, however, said that one injured person, found unconscious near a cinema hall in the city, later died in the hospital today. With this and recovery of 3 more bodies, the death toll in the violent incidents has officially been put at 96. Bus service to some neighboring areas have resumed.

Army Deployment Noted

BK040334 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] In Meerut, curfew is being lifted for 11 hours from 0700 this morning in Sadar Bazaar, Kanker Khera, Lal Kurthi, Delhi Gate, and Transport Nagar police station areas following considerable improvement in the situation. Curfew will be relaxed by 4 to 5 hours in rotation in the remaining four areas. According to official sources, the Army deployed to assist the civil administration during the trouble is being gradually withdrawn.

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has condemned the recent happenings in Meerut and some other parts of the country. In a statement issued in Calcutta yesterday, he termed the recent disturbances in Meerut as tragic. He appealed to the people of the state to maintain communal harmony and not disturb the long-established traditions of communal amity.

Prominent Hindu Leader Assassinated in Ludhiana

BK040752 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] In Punjab, a senior vice president of the Shiv Sena [militant Hindu fundamentalist group], Mr Krishna Kumar Mhajan, was shot dead and his police bodyguard seriously injured by terrorists in Ludhiana this morning. Mr Mhajan, accompanied by his bodyguard, was going on a scooter when they were attacked by two terrorists near the Dhuri Road railway crossing.

The district administration has clamped indefinite curfew in some areas of Ludhiana city as a precautionary measure. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot. Police and paramilitary forces have launched a manhunt to apprehend the culprits.

20 Terrorists Arrested, Arms Recovered in Punjab

BK040325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] In Punjab, 20 more terrorists were arrested from different parts of the state last night. The arrests were made during a special checking by police and paramilitary forces. According to an official spokesman, a large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered. In Faridkot District, police recovered four powerful bombs from hideouts of terrorists in a village under Baghpurana police station.

Two Pakistani Smugglers Killed in Punjab

BK031645 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Three smugglers, including two Pakistani nationals and one Indian, were killed in two separate encounters in Punjab last Monday [1 June]. The two Pakistani nationals were killed on the Indo-Pak border near village (Zuggiafauja Singh). The second encounter took place near village Tota in Ajnala area between three persons attempting to cross over to Pakistan. One miscreant was shot dead while the other two managed to escape under cover of darkness.

Kuwait Accused of 'Increased' Espionage
LD031708 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA — A spokesman of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today ridiculed Kuwaiti claims of impartiality in the Iraqi-imposed war, saying free-thinking world public opinion would never believe such claims.

Nations of the world have now realised that Kuwaiti rulers are accomplices in Iraq's war against Iran and that the Sheykhdom has provided Iraq with whatever assistance it sought to perpetrate aggression against Iran.

Iran views such claims as absolutely ludicrous in light of the fact that Kuwaiti airspace as well as petro-dollars are at the disposal of the Baghdad regime.

Elsewhere the spokesman termed Kuwait's reaction on Iran's seizure of its spy boats as "illogical," noting that increased Kuwaiti espionage activities for Iraq in recent week [as received] proves the sheykhdom is undoubtedly collaborating with the Ba'thist regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference 3 Jun
LD031823 Tehran IRNA in English 1807 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA — Iran's Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed a number of international issues as well as the latest developments in the Persian Gulf with a group of 60 foreign and Iranian reporters and film-makers at the Majlis building here today. Excerpts.

On a possible coordination of the big industrialized countries with the U.S.: It is very improbable that these countries will involve themselves in the issues of the Persian Gulf. France is strongly against this. West Germany and Japan too are prohibited by their constitutional laws from making interventions of this kind. It is also very improbable for Britain to get involved as well.

Even if these countries enter the adventure with the help of the U.S. we are prepared and have no worry regarding this matter. But the truth of the matter is that it is very difficult for the U.S. to mobilise its forces in the Persian Gulf. If they want to use bases in southern Persian Gulf, those countries would not agree. Because they are within the fire of our missiles and it has no benefit for them. Aircraft carriers too cannot enter the Persian Gulf because they would be within the range of our artillery, missiles and gunboats. From far way places too, air cover cannot be effectively provided because they would have to fly over 1,000 kms. Principally, we think military action in the Persian Gulf from a remote distance is difficult unless the U.S. militarily occupies southern Persian Gulf states in which case too it would have difficulty. At any rate we are not worrying.

On the simultaneous arrest of an Iranian and a British diplomat in the two countries: it was accidental. Regarding (the case in Britain) we believe it is a plot. They have accused our diplomat of shoplifting which is very stupid. But our security officials, since a long time ago, had become seriously suspicious of the British diplomat. Perhaps if that incident had not occurred in Britain we would still have arrested him. But that event (the arrest of the Iranian diplomat) speeded up the arrest of the British diplomat.

On a possible increase of U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf: It is unlikely America could increase its forces in the Persian Gulf. Because the circumstances inside the U.S. are not suitable for this. Law-making centers in the U.S. are against it. Mr. Reagan himself is in a shaky position. But the main point is that the U.S. may resort to a silly move for two reasons. First, Reagan would like to overshadow the McFarlane scandal by creating a new adventure which would be a dangerous mistake for the White House. Secondly, the U.S. showed in the McFarlane story that it is not faithful to its allies. In an attempt to regain their confidence, Washington might embark on another act of mischief. These two issues would pave the way for Reagan to resort to a dangerous act. But we think it very very improbable. Others, like the U.S. House of Representatives would prevent Mr. Reagan from doing so because he would have to give explanations to Congress and he would not be able to convince them.

On Kuwaiti use of U.S. and other flags in the Persian Gulf: This may happen and if Iraq does not embark on mischief it would not cause any problem. It would only disgrace Kuwait as an ugly act, and we are indignant at this Kuwaiti move. But if Iraq makes mischief there would be retaliatory moves. Then it would make no difference what flag a ship may fly.

On Iran's reaction vis-a-vis a possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz by foreign fleets: We have a specific plan for any stage. If our ship is attacked in the Persian Gulf a ship will be attacked in retaliation. If a center of ours in the Persian Gulf is hit a retaliatory attack will take place. On the Strait of Hormuz too, if one day we fail to use it we will not let others use it either.

On rumors that Kuwaiti troops are participating in the war against Iran: This has not been proved to us but if it is proved we must take new decisions.

On Iran's assistance to Iraqi Kurds: We will provide facilities to Iraq's popular forces as much as they need to fight (the Baghdad regime). And Ramadan HQ. (of the irregular forces of the IRGC) has been set up inside Iraq for this purpose.

On possibility of Iran's involvement in Iraqi missile attack on U.S. frigate 'Stark': Our officers devised a plan which caused trouble in (implemention of) the joint U.S.-Saudi-Iraqi plot and resulted in the U.S. frigate being hit. This is a military secret which we cannot reveal. But if one day, the U.S. nation wanted to follow up the matter in a court we are prepared to present some evidences.

More on the Persian Gulf: if Iraq attacks our ships in the Persian Gulf, a ship belonging to Iraq's backers must be hit. If American ships enter Kuwaiti ports and our ship is attacked on that day, the American ship too may be hit.

Furthermore, Rafsanjani stressed that Iran will continue its political struggle against Kuwait's request to the U.S. (on flying U.S. flag).

On allegations that Iran is isolated: They say that because we are not cooperating with the big powers. Iran is the most active in the Third World and we reject their interpretation (of Iran being isolated). If they do not disturb us, the Islamic Republic can have a role in many international issues and in solving them. We are under no circumstances a threat to the world except for illegitimate and oppressive activities.

On differences in the (P) GCC [as received] and its disapproval of Kuwait's policies in the P.G. [as received]: we are confident that the (P) GCC member states were not content with this Kuwaiti move (leasing foreign ships, etc) and there are issues on which they (the (P) GCC) have differences.

On Rashid Karami's assassination: Karami was an influential figure in Lebanon though the government had no decisive role in that country. He was a person who could be useful and perhaps those who assassinated him knew he could have a positive role in returning peace to Lebanon.

World countries make so much noise about their deaths but they kept silent on Karami's death. Perhaps if this incident had occurred in West Beirut they would make so much hue and cry about it.

Discusses Gulf Situation

NC040812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Excerpts] On the last day of Majlis Week, the Islamic Majlis speaker answered questions from foreign and local correspondents on various topics at a press, radio, and television conference.

Responding to our correspondent's question regarding the need for compiling fundamental laws, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani alluded to the bills and laws under Majlis consideration and those pertaining to economic and judicial issues, and said: Some difference of opinion existed on matters of jurisprudence among the majority of the deputies and the Council of Guardians. Of course, from the judicial point of view the Council of Guardians has the option to interpret such matters on the basis of the Constitution within the context of Islamic Law [shari'a] or it can interpret them on the basis of the Constitution as it stands. The existing differences in the various laws being debated in the Majlis have arisen from conflicting opinions among the Mojtahedin [clerical juriconsults] of the Council of Guardians and, as you are aware, this body has the right to hand down the final verdict. However, because the issue remains in abeyance and does not have the necessary consensus, and because the Council of Guardians is not responsible for suggesting other ways of promulgating such laws, I requested Imam Khomeyni today — as he is the source of emulation for all — to intervene and resolve these issues. What is more imperative is that we should base our laws upon Islamic jurisprudence, and our source of emulation in all such matters is the noble imam.

In answer to an Italian news agency correspondent in this regard, the Islamic Majlis speaker said: The people, His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, and other officials always ask why we have not compiled the basic laws. This is not in our hands. The government must formulate all the basic laws incorporating the Council of Guardians opinions. These laws should then not be amended. We have discussed the matter with the imam so that the people and officials may be duly informed. We believe we will suffer in the long term if the Council of Guardians opinion is not implemented.

The *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* correspondent then asked a question on the joint session of the Council of Guardians, cabinet members, and the Supreme Judicial Council, as well as the Majlis deputies which was held the day before yesterday [1 June]. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said we had been aware of the need for greater coordination among the three departments' officials for a long time. We have very productive weekly sessions with the three departments at present. The issues debated at the meeting centered on the important economic problems of distribution and inflation. Meanwhile, other issues of the principled implementation of the Constitution have not yet been ratified and the problem of coordination among the three branches hopefully will be resoolved at these sessions.

Replying to a *Kyodo* correspondent regarding the rumors of cabinet changes, the Islamic Majlis speaker said: I have not heard such rumors. There is only one case of a minister who wants to resign, and I am not certain if that request has been finalized. The *Abrar* daily correspondent asked what measures the Majlis had taken for increasing the low income and salaried groups' purchasing power, to which the Islamic Majlis speaker replied: The Majlis has certain laws regarding hoarding and its punishment, as well as the prosecution of those who violate economic regulations which the Council of Guardians has not yet ratified. Fortunately, this is one of the issues the great imam has resolved and which you will soon hear about.

The *Keyhan* Arabic correspondent asked about the possibility of other countries supporting U.S. policies in the Persian Gulf in the wake of the two superpowers' humiliating defeat in the region. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We consider it improbable that the others will embroil themselves in the problems of the Persian Gulf. Recently, the French foreign minister strongly opposed the idea. [passage omitted]

Replying to the Canadian newspaper *La Presse* correspondent on the possibility of an increase in the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani deemed it a remote possibility in view of the opposition of U.S. lawmaking bodies and the shaky position of Reagan who is under pressure at home and abroad and does not have a stable political reputation. [passage omitted]

The *Tehran Times* correspondent asked the Majlis speaker about the prospects for the activities of the Majlis second term, and whether there are any problems and what solutions have been envisaged in this regard. He replied: The second term is similar to the first one. However, the difference stems from the chronic problems which existed during the first term, such as the Bani-Sadr problem and the Nehzat-e Azadi. The second Majlis does not have such pressing political problems and we do not have any major difficulties except those we mentioned to the imam today, that is, on Wednesday.

In answer to the *Keyhan Hava'i* [international edition] correspondent, on the British Government's despicable conduct in denigrating Iranian diplomats and Iran's reaction, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: We have not displayed any reaction. It was similar to what happened in the Persian Gulf. Fate stepped in and we did not do anything that would be a response to their move. The British have committed an ignoble act and their charges are baseless.

In response to the *Asahi* correspondent on the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia and the steps taken in this regard, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said: We view Saudi Arabia as being the same as the other countries of the Persian Gulf and, in general, our policy has been based upon promoting cordial ties with our neighbors. Recently, because our enemies wish to exacerbate tension in the region and intimidate our neighbors, we feel we must strive for closer relations so that they may be assured that the Islamic Republic does not want trouble in the region. In addition, we have warned and explained to our neighbors the dangers inherent in the presence of the great powers in the region. Our policy has borne fruit as well.

Our correspondent then asked him: The United States and the Soviet Union are planning to encourage Iran to accept the UN Security Council resolutions based on the UN Charter and to initiate talks on ending the war. What is your opinion of these efforts? Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: When the UN Security Council admits that the Iraqi Ba'thists are the aggressors and responsible for the war, then the path will be opened for talks and for resolving the problem, because our demand is that the aggressor is punished. If the Security Council adopts this path, it will be successful, but if it wishes to continue with its old stance, it will not attain its objectives. There is no power in the world which can drag us to the conference table forcibly. Of course, we firmly believe that the great powers have no desire to end the war. Rather, they are the instigators of the war and they would not provide Iraq with modern armaments if they wanted the war to end in a just manner.

The IRNA correspondent then asked about the participation of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's son in the arms deal with the United States, and about the report on McFarlane and on the Tower Commission report, and the possibility that the *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* newspaper will be closed. The speaker of the Islamic Majlis responded:

On the first topic, I wish to say that it is one of those false charges which they always level against us. The son whom they speak of as Mehdi is a student studying in Tehran; he was at the fronts when these events occurred. My other son is studying abroad and has returned now and is engaged in military service. They have no knowledge of the incident and will not get involved in such incidents. The work on the McFarlane mission report is progressing satisfactorily and will be released at the appropriate time. The Tower Commission report has been disseminated all over the world and is freely available in Tehran. Everyone can read it, translate it, or circulate it. The *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* newspaper also will continue to be published as it is a popular, widely circulated newspaper. There is no reason to halt its publication, but, of course, it will no longer be the mouthpiece of the party.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council then replied to the correspondent of the London-based *Al-Thawrah al-Islami* Arabic-language magazine on Iran's reaction to the possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz by the foreign fleets present in the region, and said: We will prevent other vessels from entering the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

The Voice of Iran correspondent then asked: Following the disbanding of the IRP, how will the party's resources be utilized? Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said it says in its manifesto that in the event of such an eventuality, a special group will supervise the utilization of the resources in a manner similar to that followed by the party initially.

The correspondent of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] asked about Kuwait's direct participation against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic's reaction to that country's continued support of Saddam, to which the Islamic Majlis speaker said: Our reaction is what we already have displayed and if Kuwait goes ahead further we will also take a step further. Our moves depend on Kuwait's corresponding moves in the war.

Khomeyni Meets With Majlis Deputies, Families

LD031357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 3 Jun

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni to a group of Majlis deputies and their families at the Jamaran Mosque in Tehran on the occasion of Majlis Week on 3 Jun — recorded]

[Text] I am not going to make a speech today. However, this does not preclude saying a few prayers. I have always prayed for all the strata of the nation, especially those people who are precious to the system. I hope that God Almighty, the all-blessed, will provide greater success for you gentlemen who are spending your time in the service of Islam. I hope that in this Majlis session and in future Majlis sessions the issues will be Islamic issues and the methods used will also be moral and Islamic methods. Of course, I do not want to give you any advice. Thanks to God, all of you know everything. However, you should think what will happen if at this time the Majlis is blemished. Try not to allow the Majlis to lose its good name. Try to solve the issues in the way that Islam has prescribed and has put forward; we have only been able to solve these problems on the basis of Islam. You should try to safeguard this and you should try to make sure that everything is safeguarded under the blessings of Islam.

Of course, I am aware of the problems of the Majlis and the problems of the government. I do not expect all these problems to solve themselves. At the same time, as you gentlemen rely upon God, the almighty, the all-blessed, I hope that God will guide you and will enable you to follow the correct path which is desired by Islam and that you will follow that path. I hope you will always try to ensure that this nation which has always been subjected to tyranny will be able to hold its head high from now on. I hope the Majlis deputies who are the essence and the representatives of the nation will be able to hold their heads high; they should be busy serving with heads held high and with stout hearts.

This clamor which exists in the world has always existed and will always exist. However, what will abide forever is God and trust in God. You should protect this reliance upon God and solve the problems through your wisdom. I hope that God will assist everyone. When your work is in the service of God he will assist you. When the work is done in the service of God, whether we are victorious or not our work is for the sake of God and we have acted in accordance with our duty. We wish to act in accordance with our duty. We are not seeking status and neither are you. But we can, thanks to God, attain nobility.

I speak of myself. I testify that so far I have not said two verses of prayers for the sake of God. All my prayers have been for my own self; the reason is that if it were not for Heaven or Hell fire would we have prayed in the same way? No, our prayers are so that God Almighty, the all-blessed, will show us His grace and will grant us admission to Heaven and will save us from Hell. This is the ultimate aim of our actions. It would still be for the sake of God if we were given the keys to Heaven and to Hell and we were told that we had a choice; if we were told that none of us would go to Hell and none of us would be denied paradise. Under such conditions we would still raise our hands in prayers and would prostrate ourselves, and this would be for the sake of God.

I hope that God will grant you success and will increase your blessings. All that you have belongs to God and you should seek everything from God. I always pray for you. At times of supplication I pray for you and I hope God will answer my prayers. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speech

LD031316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Speech by Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemim Hashemi-Rafsanjani at meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni and Majlis deputies at Khomeyni's residence in Tehran on 3 june — recorded]

[Text] In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God. God's salutations upon the Prophet of God and his scion. We are grateful to his holiness the imam of the ummah, our esteemed leader, who on the occasion of Majlis Week has allowed the Majlis deputies and their families and the headquarters in charge of the 5 June celebrations [anniversary of Khomeyni's first uprising against the shah in 1963] to be honored by his presence.

In view of the fact that he has said that he does not wish to make a speech except for a few words, with the permission of his holiness the imam, I will make a few remarks so that the meeting will not be too brief.

According to the Constitution, the Islamic Consulatative Assembly is a focal point for national affairs. On the basis of the emphatic remarks of Your Eminence, the legal position of the Majlis has been confirmed and has been adhered to by all. After the victory of the revolution, in view of the importance which was endowed upon the Majlis in the constitution, all trends and groups which existed in the country attempted to control the Majlis. They made great efforts during the first Majlis elections. However, the line of the Imam and true Islam became victorious, and the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], the leftists, the liberals, and the nationalists did not achieve an important share in the Majlis. When they lost hope of having a strong presence in the Majlis they took a hostile position against the Majlis, and our nation remembers many incidents.

In their publications they referred to a dead end and said that in order to get out of this dead end, the removal of the Majlis and the line of the liberals had to take place. The clashes which started in the Majlis between the Islamic forces in the Majlis — the decisive majority of the Majlis, the Hezbollah of the Majlis — and those who had non-Islamic thoughts were reserved in favor of the Majlis and the Hezbollahi deputies as a result of the decisive support and the vigilance of the leader; and the non-Islamic line was condemned to defeat in that juncture as well. They lost the presidency, which they had achieved through hypocrisy, deceit, and a cover-up of the facts. Since then, with the support of his holiness the imam and with the support of our vigilant nation, the Majlis has continued its path in the best way; at all stages it is continuing its work in harmony with other institutions and organizations and in accordance with the wishes of our beloved and esteemed leader.

As an official who is aware of the workings of the Majlis, I can testify that both in the first and in the second Majlis terms the deputies have devoted themselves to the revolution with the utmost dedication and attachment to the revolution and with vigilance and awareness. They are following events and have fixed their gaze upon the guidelines of their leader, and whenever there has been the slightest deviation in the activities of the Majlis and in the debates, Your Eminence's guidelines have been most effective for us. The deputies expect you to continue the guidance, teaching, and instruction which you have always given us, and that at various junctures you will keep us informed when it is deemed advisable that certain issues should be considered.

I should draw the attention of our great leader to the fact that one of the problems in Majlis — which I wholeheartedly believe is a view shared by all other Majlis deputies — is the preparation and compilation of fundamental and constitutional laws. The people and th officials expect us to do this, and we are constantly told that the Majlis should ratify fundamental and essential laws. We have a number of fundamental and essential bills presently under review. In your presence today, and without being too explicit, I deem it necessary to say that we definitely need precise and clear intervention and help from Your Excellency. This is not the fault of anyone, or of any organization or movement. For the first time in history, the foundations of an Islamic government are being (?set). Jurisprudence, which was suppressed for 1,400 years, will once again be implemented in the all aspects of people's lives.

Naturally, in order to draw up traditional regulations on the basis of a jurisprudence which has never been used in this way, the presence of a decisive and strong mind is necessary. This needs courage, bravery, and decisiveness which, under the present circumstances, no one under the sun possesses other than Your Excellency. If Your Excellency does not come to our assistance

at this juncture of the history of revolution and if you do not solve these legislative problems clearly and decisively the way you would deem fit and the way we all believe in, we will not be sure of finding someone who would be able to do this important duty in the future. This is the wish that I am sure every single one of the deputies, government officials, the esteemed members of the Council of Guardians, Muslims, and even those outside Iran are all hoping will be somehow fulfilled. We do not know of any other way.

This special period, when we still have jurisconsults and teachers from religious seminaries in the Majlis, is a suitable time. Of course, we will always act according to your guidance. Your method has always been to train your students so that they will be able to act independently and not to to depend on others. But we should be dependent in our actions when it is difficult for those who are not a source of imitation or whose views are not held by the people to be a religious judgment to be independent. While we are ashamed of bringing our troubles to you, in spite of all your problems, we ask you to grace us with your guidance even if it is only a prayer for those present.

Khamene'i Demands Superpower 'Retreat' From Gulf

LD040816 Tehran IRNA in English 0718 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA — "Now that the superpowers are in a contradictory situation in the Persian Gulf, they have no option but to retreat," said President 'Ali Khamene'i here Wednesday.

Speaking in the fourth congress on the June 5th 1963 uprising, Khamene'i added: "It is in the interest of the superpowers to pull out of the region." Any move by the U.S. or any other power in the Persian Gulf would pose a threat to their interest, he said.

More on the same subject, Khamene'i, who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, added: "If big powers tend to become aggressive and wage an unwanted war, flames of it will rage in a manner that all interests of superpowers in the region will be burned to ashes."

The president said the only solution to the crisis in the Persian Gulf was withdrawal of big powers and leaving its security to the countries of the region. If they do not do so, people of the region will make them do so, he pointed out, for they (superpowers) know they are vulnerable and the Iranian nation has the guts to deal a blow on them.

"If the big powers threaten interests of Iran, the Islamic Republic as the largest and the most powerful country in the Persian Gulf Region will not sit silent... it will firmly curtail any hand that raises to pose a serious threat to Iran's interests," threatened the president.

President Khamene'i described the June 5th uprising as one of the most important events in the Iranian history and added that it was launched under the leadership of the ulema and backed by the people.

Radio Views U.S. Policy

LD302129 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 30 May 87

[Commentary: "The Motive and Results of the U.S. Presence in the Persian Gulf"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, Tehran's Friday prayers imam, in the course of the magnificent ceremonies of the prayers of Fitr festival, while surveying the issues of the Persian Gulf, elaborated on the role played by the regime of Iraq in creating tension in the Persian Gulf and further indicated: The superpowers and [word indistinct], since the very beginning, had an irresponsible stand in the face of the tension which was created in the Persian Gulf by the regime of Saddam. [passage omitted]

As was elaborated by Mr Khamene'i, the head of the Supreme Defense Council, in the course of the sermons of 'Id al-Fitr prayers, the negligence of the superpowers of the significance of the issue and even their implicit assistance to the Ba'thist regime of Iraq has now brought the situation in the Persian Gulf to the point where not only the motive of the superpowers has not been fulfilled, rather, with their losing of control over the situation, now kindling of fire in the Persian Gulf is going to burn themselves. [passage omitted]

There is no need for the passage of time in order for the statement of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to be proved. For even from now the local and international results of the policies of the Reagan administration have become clear, results which are indicative of the fact that Reagan, through his interference measures, has brought his political credibility and has also brought the credibility of the policies of America under question across the world. And now the political rivals of Reagan say it does not seem that Reagan has paid full attention to the probable consequences of this measure. The policies Reagan will involve America in Iran-Iraq war and will place the American forces in a hardened path. [sentence as heard]

This is the [words indistinct] that the Middle East policies of Reagan are faced with local opposition and resistance, and from now the defeat of the adventurous policies of America in the Persian Gulf, which are precisely reminiscent of the destruction and annihilation of the expansionist policies of America in Lebanon have become clear. [sentence as heard] And it has been as a result of the same resistance and the [words indistinct] of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran's lack of fear from the presence of the warships of the superpowers and the revelation of the adventurous policies of America in the Persian Gulf which the White House officials, in order to prevent the further discredibility, have stated: America is not prepared to escort the Kuwaiti oil tankers at the present time.

UK Foreign Secretary Rules Out Sanctions

LD031642 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] London, June 3, IRNA — British foreign secretary Wednesday ruled out the use of economic sanctions against Iran in retaliation against the arrest of one of its diplomats in Tehran.

Speaking to reporters in Cardiff, Wales, Geoffrey Howe said economic measures against Iran had not been discussed but reiterated that time for Iran to respond to Britain's demand for an "apology" was "not unlimited."

A Foreign Office spokesman also said the ministry "had never mentioned the word 'sanctions.'"

"It's the press that started to use the word 'sanctions' in this whole discussion not us," he added.

As the third largest exporter to Iran, Britain conducts a considerable amount of trade with Iran which reached around pounds 300 million last year.

British officials have not specified what action they would take against Iran if it does not get a "satisfactory" explanation from Tehran about the arrest of a British diplomat on Thursday.

Meanwhile there have been no new developments concerning the case of an Iranian diplomat in Manchester. He is due to appear in court on June 11 charged with theft and assaulting a policeman, which have been strongly rejected by Iran.

Velayati Demands UK Apology

LD031916 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati warned here Wednesday that any British official appointed as head of Britain's Interest Section in Tehran should respect Iranian regulations or else Iran would have to revise its relations with London.

Pointing to Britain's repeated violations of diplomatic law over the past seven years, Velayati said that the London government should strongly condemn the arrest and beating up of an Iranian political attache of Iran's Consulate in Manchester by British police and should also promise that such incidents would never happen again.

The foreign minister also said that British police detained and beat up the Iranian diplomat, Ahmad Qassemi a few days after he had been attacked by Iranian counterrevolutionaries.

Velayati stressed that there is no connection between Qassemi issue and the arrest of the British Interest Section official in Tehran, Edward Chaplin.

The propaganda ballyhoo provoked by Britain's "unfounded" charges against the Iranian diplomat in Manchester indicated that the London government still believed that "the sun does not set on the British empire."

Foreign Minister Velayati also blamed the London government for falling short of offering a convincing explanation about the 'illegal' arrest and mistreatment of the Iranian diplomat by British police. "The Islamic Republic cannot tolerate such offenses," he added.

The British Government's attempt to use the incident to cover up its police's inhuman behavior towards the Iranian diplomat is an indication of the lack of respect for diplomatic immunity in Britain, and thus the reason for such propaganda, Velayati concluded.

Libyan Official Delivers Message to Velayati

LD032221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Mr ('Abdallah 'Aziz), head of the Office of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, met this afternoon with Foreign Minister Velayati and presented him with a message from the secretary of the Office of the People's Committee of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. They also discussed the strengthening and expanding of bilateral relations.

Greek Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

LD021956 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA — Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias arrived here for an official visit this afternoon. He was met at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival, Papoulias expressed hope his visit would contribute to expansion of bilateral relations. "I don't think any two countries can boast of enjoying historical ties such as exist between Iran and Greece," he said.

Papoulias also described the purpose of his visit to Iran as being "very important," saying it would open a new chapter in Tehran-Athens relations.

Asked whether United Nations re-confirmation that Iraq had used chemical weapons against Iran, has changed Greek policy towards Iraq, he answered, "Athens policy is clear. We are against chemical and nuclear wars."

Greek prime minister's initiative concerning nuclear weapons is well-known, Papoulias said, and Athens fully supports a Balkan free nuclear zone.

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati returned here last night from a 2-day tour of the U.A.E. and Qatar where he discussed Persian Gulf developments with leaders of these countries.

Confers With Behzad Nabavi

LD031830 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA — Visiting Greek Foreign Affairs Minister Karolos Papoulias conferred with Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi here today.

In the meeting the two sides called for exchange of experts between Tehran and Athens in order to prepare the grounds for

expanded economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Papoulias also invited Nabavi to visit Greece and inspect Greek industries. He arrived here Tuesday at the head of a delegation.

Meets With Velayati

LD032128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Karlolos Papoulias, the foreign minister of Greece, who is on a visit to Tehran at the head of a delegation, this morning met and conferred with Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs. In this meeting the foreign minister of Greece said: We are highly in favor of expanding relations in the fields of economics and culture, and the Government of Greece is placing special importance on this trip.

He also referred to the situation in the Perisan Gulf in the imposed war and the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime and said: The use of chemical weapons is an inhuman and savage act and its use should be prevented. In connection with the Persian Gulf he said: The superpowers want to benefit from the situation in their own interests; this will be a disaster for world peace. The presence of superpowers and their fleets will not help solve the problems of the region and will increase tension there.

He also emphasized the common stances adopted and views held by Greece and the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to South Africa and Nicaragua, and the necessity of withdrawing Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, in reply, in describing the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regards to world issues, especially the issues of Palestine, Afghanistan, and Lebanon, also talked about the imposed war and said: This war has been imposed on us and the rulers of Iraq intended to weaken or to destroy the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government. In our opinion it is not possible to end the war while Saddam remains in power, and our stance is a (?correct) stance. Mr. Velayati also described Saddam's crimes in attacking cities and residential areas and the deployment of chemical weapons and the attacks on commercial vessels and oil tankers and said: We are against the expansion of the war but these (crimes) spring from the expansionist and aggresive (?drives) of Iraq. The superpowers are not allowed to interfere in the region, and if the powers want to violate [words indistinct] we shall stand and face them.

According to this report, in this meeting the foreign minister of Greece extended an invitation to our foreign minister to visit Greece and it was decided that the foreign ministers of the two countries should visit each others' countries yearly on a regular and continuous basis. The foreign minister of Greece also met and conferred with Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries this afternoon. In this meeting the two parties called for the exchange of experts between the two countries, learning about each other's capabilities, and the need to expand technical and economic cooperation.

In conclusion, the foreign minister of Greece invited our country's minister of heavy industries to visit Greece and become familiar with that country's industries.

Meets With Commerce Minister

LD041058 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA — Visiting Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, met here Thursday with Iranian minister of commerce, Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari where bilateral economic and trade cooperation was discussed. The meeting was attended by ambassadors of both countries. Both sides expressed hope that trade exchanges between Iran and Greece would increase.

Papoulias who arrived here Tuesday describing his talks so far with high-ranking Iranian officials as highly beneficial, said there were ample possibilities to promote mutual cooperation.

Abedi-Ja'fari expressed readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to export non-oil goods to Greece and expand cooperation in the fields of fishing and shipping and also purchase of chemical and construction metals from that country.

Majlis Deputy Criticizes Minister of Commerce

PM031601 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 May 87 p 2

[Untitled report on 26 May open Majlis session by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent]

[Excerpts] The deputies approved Clause 9 of the import and export bill, giving the government the duty to give priority to Islamic, developing, and nonaligned countries with regard to Iran's imports and exports. [passage omitted]

The second speaker at the open session of the Majlis was Sa'id Amani, deputy from Tehran. He commented on the fact that the war has priority over everything else and said: We should therefore not forget the war for one moment, nor should we forget that economic questions are closely linked with the war. [passage omitted]

It has been 8 years since the success of the Islamic revolution, and during this time we have had many successes, especially in the military area. But we must be truthful in admitting that we have many economic problems in various stages. If no one pays attention to them, their adverse effects will increase and will eventually affect the very people that the great imam talks about all the time — the downtrodden people and the real owners of the revolution.

Because of the inflation of the past year, those under most pressure are the workers, civil servants, and merchants who earn around 50,000 rials per month. These people have to pay 20,000-30,000 rials in rent per month, which is impossible for them. [passage omitted]

Amani then addressed the other deputies and said: You often ask how goods, whose import and distribution are in the hands of the government and the Ministry of Commerce, find their way onto

the black market. Why are they offered at such high prices, making high incomes for some people?

Of course, it is obvious that the distribution of so many items is not the work of one delinquent shopkeeper. The shopkeeper has to present ration coupons in exchange for the goods he sells. This matter involves those who are familiar with economic matters, who make deals outside the legal framework and create a black market. [passage omitted]

Brother deputies, the shop owners and guilds wanted all guild matters to be legalized under one umbrella, under the orders of the imam and Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi. They wanted to elect a central guilds committee so that the country's economic and guild issues could be solved by their own elected representatives.

The minister of commerce invited representatives of the unions to form a guilds committee on 16 May 1984. But unfortunately, despite the advice of the imam and the leadership of the deputies and despite the fact that it was his lawful duty, he has delayed this matter some 3 years. He has presented all sorts of complaints and has delayed the elections. Since then there have been many meetings and protests and reports written to the imam and the president as well as to the speaker of the Majlis. Then the issue was brought to the imam's attention once again through a letter written by Engineer Musavi. The imam then issued the order to organize elections for the Tehran central guilds committee. [passage omitted]

What the minister of commerce must keep in mind is the need to change his previous manner toward the dedicated guilds and Iran's Islamic trading customs. Unfortunately, the commerce minister spent time in the United States and only returned home after the victory, so he is not familiar with popular and traditional economics. He learned about finance in the United States, which does not match economic conditions in Iran. This is why we see him putting obstacles in the way of all decisions with regard to production, distribution, and pricing. [passage omitted]

The deputy from Tehran continued: What excuse does the commerce minister have for delaying the election of the central guilds committee? It must be stressed that the minister of commerce and trade must make good the damage by preparing for a central committee election, so that, God grant, there will be no more delays. [passage omitted]

IRGC Spokesman Details Peshmerga Successes

NC030649 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Afshar, spokesman of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps [IRGC], was interviewed by a Central News Unit correspondent during which he discussed the Iraqi Muslims' expanding and deepening revolutionary movement. He said: The Iraqi people now see a ray of hope and all of them are prepared to join the revolutionary movement. We hope other cities in northern Iraq will endeavor to continue this movement, and that the people in southern Iraq will go to the north to be armed and trained in order to liberate other parts of Iraqi territory and join the Iraqi people in that region.

Speaking on Ramadan Headquarters' role in coordinating forces and services, he said: Since its establishment as a center to carry out operations inside Iraqi territory, Ramadan Headquarters has formed organizations and irregular contingents for guerrilla operations. With their arrival in Iraq, these contingents play a very effective role in boosting the morale of the opponent and combatant forces fighting the Iraqi regime. They help these Iraqi forces in terms of communications, coordination, arms, tactics, and in boosting their morale. They have been so successful that these Iraqi forces implemented with unprecedented valor the most complicated and extensive irregular operations ever recorded in the history of regional wars on Iraqi territory.

He added: We hope Ramadan Headquarters will use its links with the Iraqi people, clergymen, and opposition groups in the best way possible so that, with God's grace, the Iraqi nation can enter the phase of struggle as the Iranian people did and lead their Islamic revolution to victory. It is our duty to participate with the other organizations of the country, including the Red Crescent, the Ministry of Interior, and other related organs, to do our best to coordinate the Iraqi emigrants who have come to Iran. These emigrants are fully prepared to be armed and sent to the theater of operations to begin a direct struggle against Saddam's regime and to perform their Islamic and patriotic duties to the best of their ability.

The IRGC spokesman then discussed the activities of Ramadan Headquarters, the IRGC Ground Forces' irregular operations center, and of the combatant Iraqi Kurdish forces consisting of PUK peshmerga, Iraqi Kurdish Hizballah peshmerga, Iraqi Muslim mujahidin, and the Sayyid al-Shohada forces during the 8-month period between 23 September 1986 and 21 May 1987, and claimed: With the participation of the said forces, Ramadan Headquarters carried out 189 operations including various offensives, concentrated shellings, ambushes, occupations, and defensive operations. During this time, the Zionist enemy suffered 3,942 deaths, over 5,000 wounded, and 630 of them were captured, while 13 helicopters, 2 tanks, 7 artillery pieces and a large amount of war materiel were destroyed or seized by the combatants of Islam.

It should be noted that these operations were separate from the victorious "Fath" and "Nasr" operations that were planned and carried out on a more extensive scope against the Iraqi Army.

Kurdish Rebels Blow Up Garrison in Al-Mawsil

LD031955 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 3, IRNA — A major Iraqi garrison 'Ghazilahi' in the city of Al-Mawsil was blown up by powerful bombs planted by Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) last week. A munitions depot of the garrison was destroyed and considerable damage was inflicted on other buildings and installations in the explosion.

Meanwhile, KDP forces attacked political and military centers of Sarsang [name as received] town, Dahuk Province with heavy mortar fire over the past few days inflicting substantial damage on Ba'th Party buildings and military sites. Six Iraqi troops were killed and a number of others wounded in the attack.

A report from Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Province said three Iraqi military bases in Shiladarreh region were captured by KDP Peshmergas in a series of recent operations in which 'Shabandar', commander of an Iraqi battalion company stationed in Shif-Chenaraki [name as received] base was seriously wounded.

KDP forces also blew up an Iraqi truck carrying munitions inside Shaolava [name as received] town killing [word indistinct] Hassan Ahmed.

Successes of 'Nasr-2' Operations Continue

Strategic Heights Taken

LD031532 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 3, IRNA — Strategic heights 418 and 420 were liberated in the Iranian Nasr-2 operations launched in Maymak Heights, western fronts, Tuesday night.

The liberated heights had been under Iraqi occupation since they were seized by the enemy earlier in its 1980 aggression against Iran. The most strategic regional heights liberated in the Iranian Nasr-2 operations are "Shino" Heights.

Earlier in 1984, several regional outposts and heights excluding "Shino" were mopped up of Iraqi troops by Muslim forces of Iran.

Cargo Ships Searched, Released; Fronts Shelled

LD031647 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA — Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Announcing the above here Wednesday, the 2856th joint staff communique said that Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi troop concentration sites and their armoured units throughout the fronts Tuesday, killing several Iraqi soldiers.

Several tanks and vehicles, some munitions dumps and at least 20 gun emplacements of Iraqi troops were also destroyed throughout the fronts yesterday, the communique said.

An Iraqi patrol convoy attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sumar, western fronts, yesterday was suppressed by Iranian Muslim combatants, the communique concluded.

1,000 Iraqis Killed

LD032025 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 3, IRNA — Some 1,000 Iraqi troops have been killed and wounded and a group of others captured since the outset of Nasr-2 operations Tuesday midnight. 30 Iraqi soldiers have so far been transferred behind frontlines.

First Lieutenant Javad Qazim 'Abd, commander of the First company, Second Battalion, Brigade four of Division 22 of Iraq's Second Corps who was captured along with 11 other officers, told IRNA here today that Nasr-2 were blitz operations which prevented Iraqi forces from reacting, despite a month-long alert during Ramadan, which ended last Friday.

He said a considerable number of Jordanian forces were despatched to northern Iraq recently in order to protect the area against combatant insurrectionists.

Meanwhile, an Iranian field commander, interviewed by IRNA, termed Nasr-2 region as militarily important and said Muslim combatants achieved all pre-planned objectives in early hours of the operations.

Iraqis Forced To Retreat

LD040816 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA — Ground forces of the Islamic Republic thwarted a heavy enemy counter-offensive in its entirety in Nasr-2 operational theatre, early Thursday. Ten Iraqi tanks, and tens of light and heavy arms were demolished in the battles. Several Iraqi troops were also captured by Muslim combatants of Iran.

Iranian forces launched Nasr-2 offensive west of Maymak heights, in the border province of Ilam at 20:30 hours GMT Tuesday in retaliation for the Iraqi bombardment of a village in Iran's Sardasht, W. Azarbayjan Province and savageries against Iraqi Kurdistan population.

More than 1000 Iraqi forces were killed or wounded while numerous others were taken captive. Also five heights were taken over and 20 sq. kms of Iraqi territory liberated in the operations.

The enemy launched five counter-offensives as of Wednesday morning with hastily rearranged reserve forces but was forced to retreat sustaining heavy casualties.

KEYHAN Comments on Lebanese-Palestinian Accord

PM021157 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 May 87 pp 19-20

[Editorial by Yusef Gharavi: "The Reasons for the Dissolution of the Lebanese-PLO Agreement"]

[Excerpts] The day before yesterday the Lebanese parliament revoked the 17-year-old Cairo agreement, instituted with the intervention of Al-Nasir, between the Lebanese regime and the PLO.

The Lebanese parliament's action shocked the various Palestinian circles and seemed rather hasty. This is why no reason has yet been given for this move by that country's officials.

In reality, the Lebanese parliament's action was certainly not a move to stop the Palestinians' armed struggle against Zionism. It must be considered within the general framework of the

region's developments, including preparatory groundwork for the formation of an international conference to find a solution to the Middle East crisis. It is also designed as a step toward stopping all armed actions by the Palestinians and the Islamic resistance against occupied Palestine's northern borders.

This editorial will try to reveal this decision's unannounced goal, which seems to be primarily aimed against the shining struggles of the Lebanese Islamic resistance. [passage omitted]

In their first assessment of the parliament's action, Maronite Christian circles said the Cairo agreement was revoked in retaliation for the dissolution of the 17 May accord between Lebanon and the Zionist regime and was also designed to create balance.

Of course, there is no doubt that this explanation by Christian circles is meant to fool the public and in effect fits in with their hostile anti-Islamic sentiments. Any informed and neutral observer knows that the conditions which led to the destruction of the above-mentioned agreements — both the treasonous May 17 accord and the Cairo agreement — cannot be compared with one another.

The compromising nature of the 17 May accord between the Lebanese regime and the Zionists lay in the fact that it was an effort on behalf of aggressive circles to end the state of war between the two sides and to push Lebanon toward Camp David. This is why the agreement never received the backing it needed from the Lebanese people, especially the Muslims. It is also why the Islamic resistance in that country tried to tip the balance of power in its own favor and to continue its struggle against the Zionist regime and managed to provide the groundwork for the dissolution of the 17 May agreement. [passage omitted]

It is not our aim to discover whether or not the parties involved respected the Cairo agreement or not. What gave the agreement importance after the 1973 war — and what is important to us — is the continued state of war against the Zionists.

It is quite clear that the Lebanese Government does not intend to stop the Palestinians' attacks against the Zionists from southern Lebanon. It is also obvious that the PLO has fallen for the idea of political settlement — which means less insistence on armed struggle in the PLO's strategy. This also means that the Palestinians will be unable to render the Zionist borders and areas deep inside Zionist territory unsafe, as they did in the early 1970's with their non-stop attacks.

On the contrary, the Islamic movement has in the past few years delivered the strongest and the most effective blows against the shaky and immobile Israeli army, employing a general Islamic strategy to liberate Jerusalem.

Therefore, the aim of the parliament's action is not, as the Maronites say, to create balance. It is aimed precisely at winning the points mentioned in the revoked 17 May accord — the formal announcement of an end to hostilities along the Zionists' northern borders. This is one of the main points raised by the 17 May agreement.

The Lebanese Government guaranteed its presence at an international peace conference through the Cairo agreement. It is certain that the Lebanese Government could not have reached a such a decision by itself — especially with regard to the gloomy atmosphere that prevailed following the conclusion of the 18th Palestine National Council Session, which called for some serious reckoning.

As mentioned before, the main point is not whether the Palestinians, especially the 'Arafat faction, continue their armed struggle, because the main goal of that faction's recent operations was to gain prestige and nothing else. And it was done while the Islamic resistance in Lebanon, alongside dedicated Palestinians, adopted a unified Islamic strategy to bring the occupying Zionist army to its knees and to destroy its reputation.

Future developments in Lebanon will show that the Lebanese parliament's decision, made under pressure from regional circles, will have no effect on the continued struggles of the Islamic resistance and the Palestinians. This was proved by the presence of 150,000 Palestinians around the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Jerusalem Day, shouting "Jerusalem is ours." This movement will rely on its guns and its belief and will enlarge its circle of struggle until Jerusalem is liberated.

'Powerful Bomb' Explosion Kills 2, Injures 24

BK031552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Two people were killed and 24 others were injured in Peshawar when a powerful bomb exploded in a local cinema at show time around 1700 today. The device was placed in one of the galleries. The injured were rushed to Lady Reading Hospital. Five of the wounded are in critical condition.

Government Denies Training Sri Lankan Forces

BK031636 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Excerpts] A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Islamabad today that Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo is in touch with the leaders of Sri Lanka and India to convey Pakistan's earnest hope for an amicable resolution of the differences on the ethnic issue between the two South Asian countries. [passage omitted]

Pakistan has also apprised Sri Lanka of its concern and sympathy over the huge loss of life from acts of terrorism and violence in that country. After consulting with the Sri Lankan Government, Pakistan has decided to supply food and medicine to supplement efforts already made by the Government of Sri Lanka for relief of the victims of internal strife.

Answering a question, the spokesman denied that Pakistan has made any special proposal to settle the conflict between Sri Lanka and India. He emphasized that this is a Sri Lankan internal affair, and there is no need for proposals by any other country. When asked to give Pakistan's view on India's decision to send relief supplies to the affected areas of Sri Lanka's Northern Province in Jaffna, the spokesman said Pakistan understands that when people face difficulties in any country the proper way to propose relief is to consult the affected country, as Pakistan had done.

He used the terms false and baseless to describe reports published in a London daily that Pakistani military advisers have gone to Sri Lanka to train its Armed Forces. He stated categorically that no member of the Pakistan Armed Forces is employed in Sri Lanka.

Spokesman on Meerut Violence, AWACS, Afghanistan

BK040220 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Pakistan has conveyed its concern to the Indian Government over the communal disturbances in Meerut and other places which haveresulted in the loss of precious lives.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad expressed the hope that steps taken by India to restore law and order at these places will be effective and successful and the Indian Government will also take measures to prevent a reccurrence of such violent activities against its Muslim minority. He said it is the foremost duty of the Indian Government to protect the lives and property of its citizens. The foreign office spokesman reaffirmed that Pakistanis determined to remain committed to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, including India. However, he pointed out that the loss of human life is of natural concern, particularly when the victims are bound to us by ties of family, religion, history, and culture. That is why the communal riots in Meerut and other places in India have aroused deep concern among the people of Pakistan.

In response to a question, the spokesman said the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi has asked the Indian Government to provide information about any Pakistani nationals affected in the disturbances. So far, however, no official report has been received about any Pakistani national affected by the disturbances. As for the fabricated allegations insinuating Pakistani involvement in the Meerut incidents, the spokesman said the Pakistan Government is in no way involved in these incidents. He added that no communication has been received from the Indian Government in this connection.

The spokesman confirmed that Pakistan has decided to purchase the early warning system known as AWACS and it has conveyed a letter of intent to the U.S. Defense Department. He categorically denied that the AWACS are coming to Pakistan in connection with exercises.

Commenting on the Soviet step to convene an international conference on Afghanistan, the spokesman said Pakistan has not received any such proposal so far. Answering a question, the spokesman said that Pakistan has no objection to the setting up of a government of national reconciliation in Afghanistan, but no formal proposal has been given to Pakistan in this connection.

Iranian Official, Foreign Minister Discuss Gulf

LD031620 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Islamabad, June 3, IRNA — Pakistan is opposed to any UN Security Council decision made in utter disregard of the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan to visiting Iranian High Presidential Adviser Mostafa Mir Salim here Wednesday.

Yaqub Khan emphasized on the need to maintain security in the Persian Gulf and said Iran and Pakistan should seek to always maintain close ties.

In response, Mir Salim said the Soviet Union's hasty move in the Persian Gulf provided the U.S. with an ideal pretext to build up its naval presence in the region in order to make good on the scandal caused by McFarlane's clandestine visit to Tehran.

Mir Salim said Persian Gulf states have realized the impossibility of them guaranteeing security in the region without the help of the Islamic Republic. For this reason, he said, these states are trying to expand their relations with Iran.

Developments in the Persian Gulf over the past three years all point to Iraq as being the cause of regional tension, Mir Salim said.

The Iranian official said Tehran-Islamabad cooperation and understanding as well as their coordinated viewpoints on international issues require the two countries to exchange views on the Persian Gulf which he said is a complicated issue.

Larger Deficit Possible in New Budget

BK030211 Hong Kong AFP in English
0157 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Islamabad, June 3 (AFP) — Pakistan's 1986-1987 budget deficit may swell beyond the original provision because of unforeseen military expenses, a senior Pakistani official has said.

Qazi Alimullah, the country's economic advisor, releasing an official survey of Pakistan's performance during fiscal 1986-1987 ending June 30, told newsmen Tuesday that gross domestic product (GDP) rose seven percent and gross national product (GNP) 6.12 percent over the period. But he said the country's budget faced unforeseen expenses last winter when India deployed 11 divisions along Pakistan's borders in major military exercises.

This prompted Pakistani armed forces to take "modest defensive measures" which had an impact on the country's economy, officials said. The actual amount incurred as a result of "additional obligations this year" was not mentioned in the survey. The Indian maneuvers reportedly cost 250 million dollars.

Finance Minister Mohammed Yasin Khan was meanwhile due to present next year's draft budget on Thursday. The budget document, while expressing satisfaction with the overall economic situation, cites setbacks reflecting a low savings rate and trade and budget defecits in the fiscal year that is about to end.

A shortfall was also recorded in foreign exchange following a more than 11 percent decline in home remittances by the country's large work force abroad. The decline was mainly due to retrenchments in the oil-rich Gulf and Arab countries, it said.

The two-year-old civilian government of Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, which has provided 1.93 million jobs to skilled and educated youths, was now facing an unemployment rate of 3.6 percent, the 340-page document said.

But the document said the country's economy generally performed well this year, reflecting a high growth rate, a check on prices, increased exports and stronger performances in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Energy, however, remained a matter of concern and the statement said steps were need to reduce oil imports to save foreign exchange.

National investment also continued to lag because of a poor rate of savings, which came to around 14 percent of gross domestic product.

Annual Survey Reviews Economic Performance

BK021331 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 2 Jun 87

[Text] The annual economic survey for the outgoing financial year, released in Islamabad today, says the high rate of economic growth combined with improvement in economic distribution and price stability was the key toward better living standard of the entire community. According to the survey the country attained 7 percent growth in domestic products which compares quite favorably with the sixth plan target of 6.8 percent and the average growth rate of 6.7 percent maintained during the period 1980-86. The gross national product, however, lagged behind the GDP due to slower inflow of net income from abroad.

In the agriculture sector growth of 5.9 percent was achieved. Rice production was higher than last year by 21 percent, sugarcane by 7 percent and cotton by 9 percent. Due to heavy rains in early summer, however, wheat production may be lower than the target of 14.7 million tons.

Indian Airdrop Over Jaffna Called 'Outrage'

BK041324 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Indian Air Force transport planes protected by MIG [as heard] fighters today dropped relief supplies over the Jaffna peninsula. *Reuter* reported that the Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that there were 35 journalists on board the aircraft which took off from Bangalore. It said that the planes were expected to return from Sri Lanka at about 1830 local time.

Sources in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress-I Party told *Reuter* that the decision to sending the planes was taken after meeting throughout the day held by Mr Gandhi with senior government officials and members of his cabinet. Earlier, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner Bernard Tilakaratna is reported to have been summoned to the External Affairs Ministry and informed by Natwar Singh [external minister of state] that in keeping with India's commitment to provide assistance to the people of Jaffna, the Indian Government is dispatching relief supplies by air which will be dropped over Jaffna by parachute. Mr Natwar Singh said that the transport aircraft would be escorted by fighters to ensure that they are not attacked while in flight. The Indian Air Force transport planes have now dropped the relief supplies over Jaffna.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry has announced that India's unilateral decision to air drop relief supplies over Jaffna was a naked violation of our independence. A note handed to the New Delhi government said that (?we have) no military or other means of preventing this outrage. It is an unwarranted assault on our sovereignty and territorial integrity. The note added that Sri Lanka will hold India responsible for the consequences.

Indian Air Force planes, according to official sources, dropped only 24 tons of supplies, while the Sri Lankan Navy unloaded 900 tons of food supplies and the security forces have already distributed these items among the (?people). The government has lifted all fuel restriction in Jaffna. All petroleum products are already on their way to Jaffna. The government has also invited all nongovernmental organizations [words indistinct] to visit Jaffna and review the distribution of foodstuff.

Communique Issued on 'Fishing Boats' Convoy

BK031443 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1439 GMT 3 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 3 (*Lanka Puwath*) — 19 Indian fishing boats arrived near the island of Katchchativu and anchored off the territorial waters of Sri Lanka, states a communique issued by the Ministry of National Security tonight.

The Sri Lanka Government officials refused permission to entry and the leader of the Indian flotilla named Maitra stated that they were bringing urgent food supplies to 'starving people' of Jaffna.

The Sri Lanka Government officials replied that on the contrary starvation was rampant in Tamil Nadu and that the relief should go to those who most needed it.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society officials stated that no aid had been asked by them.

The Sri Lanka officials invited the leader of the Indian flotilla to come for a discussion alone but the Indian leader wanted foreign correspondents too in the discussion. This was politely refused.

There are two large vessels suspected to be military vessels that are also anchored behind the fishing boats.

New Indian Moves Predicted

BK040136 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 4 Jun 87

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The recall of the flotilla of Indian boats carrying relief supplies for Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka came after several hours of tense negotiations during which there were fears of a serious confrontation between the two countries. The fleet was stopped just outside Sri Lankan waters as it was heading toward the northern Jaffna peninsula. When no compromise was found, the boats sailed back home. But as (John Rettie) reports from Colombo, the Sri Lankans do not believe that will be the end of the story.

[Begin (Rettie) recording] The fleet's departure was revealed by the [Sri Lankan] minister of national security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, who said he hoped good sense had prevailed and would continue to do so. There had been some expectations that the Indians might insist on the fleet continuing and send it to its intended landing point near Jaffna town with a naval or coast guard escort. This could clearly have led to an armed clash at sea if the tiny Sri Lankan Navy had wished to stand up to the might of India. But in the end, the Indians decided not to go for confrontation.

However, nobody in Colombo believes that India will let itself be sent packing with its tail between its legs by its small southern neighbor. Some new determined move by India now seems virtually inevitable.

For all Mr Athulathmudali's soothing comment, the Sri Lankans are now deeply suspicious. Reliable sources say that from their intelligence sources they are convinced that 2 of 19 the fishing boats, which formed the aid fleet, contained arms for the Tamil Tigers, the main Tamil separatist group, sent at the Tigers' request. Asked to comment on this, the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, described the allegation as an unmitigated and motivated lie.

The same Sri Lankan sources allege that the two bigger Indian ships accompanying the aid fleet were in fact coast guard or naval vessels. Mr Dixit described this as tommyrot. He said the problem had been that the Indians had been prepared to let the Sri Lankans distribute the aid, provided Indian Red Cross workers

could be present as observers. There had also been disagreement over India's insistence that 100 journalists should observe the distribution as well. [end recording]

Developments in Jaffna Situation Reported

LTTE 'Abandoned' by Leaders

BK040812 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0751 GMT 4 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 4 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that the terrorist attack on the telecommunications complex, north of the Jaffna tower has severely damaged or destroyed the sophisticated computers installed there. This would mean that even if the government, as announced, lifts the moratarium on instant direct dialling it would not be possible to use this facility since the damaged equipment costing thousands of U.S. dollars would have to be replaced and more importantly made safe from terrorist attack.

The terrorists now hiding in the city of Jaffna which has a very large civilian population and are bent on depriving the civilians of Jaffna city with basic amenities by erecting road blocks, [words indistinct] public library buildings and now the telecommunications equipment. This is part of the sustained propaganda originating in Madras of so called starvation, genocide, etc. of Jaffna Tamils.

The civilian administration set up is being stabilised in the Vadamarachchi area. Meanwhile Security Force strongholds are being erected in strategic areas.

A number of new recruits to the LTTE who had been abandoned by their leader when they fled the area are now openly expressing disillusionment and are cooperating with the Security Forces.

The cyanide pill hanging round LTTE necks have become a spurious symbol and its glamour for young people have now disappeared, for the LTTE leaders have deserted their followers in effecting their escape from the Vadamarachchi area.

The government will soon have elections to the local government bodies [words indistinct]

All schools have reopened and normalcy in returning fast.

There are no other terrorist related incidents reported anywhere else in the island.

'Heavy Fighting' in City

BK040311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Colombo has prevented the convoy of Indian relief vessels from proceeding toward Jaffna on threat of action by the Sri Lankan Navy. The relief vessels returned to Rameswaram late last night. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, heavy fighting has broken out in Jaffna town with the militants attacking the telecommunications building adjacent to the Fort Army Camp. Our Colombo correspondent, Plaban Majumder, says a fire has broken out in the building and a government communique said 42 Security Forces personnel suffered serious burn injuries. Three soldiers were reportedly killed.

In the meantime, the World Council of Churches has urged the Sri Lankan Government to allow it and the International Red Cross, besides other humanitarian organizations, to provide the much needed relief to the people of Jaffna. The council has appealed to Colombo to stop immediately the military offensive in the peninsula. The parties concerned should come to the negotiating table, it said.

Speaking in Goa, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said India's policy toward the Sri Lankan ethnic issue remains the same. The main hitch in solving it is that the Sri Lankan Government has gone in for the military option. He told newsmen in Panaji that India is worried about the people in Jaffna who have been denied their basic needs. The decision to send relief materials on humanitarian grounds indicates India's solidarity with the Tamils in the area. He also said that New Delhi is keeping friendly countries informed of the developments in the island.

LTTE: Over 100 Soldiers Killed

BK031458 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] Madras, India, June 3 (AFP) — A Tamil separatist attack on an army camp in northern Sri Lanka left more than 100 soldiers dead Wednesday, the island's dominant guerrilla group said here. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said it captured three soldiers in the attack on the army camp near the Jaffna Fort garrison.

Reports from Colombo have said only three soldiers died in the attack, the first on an army installation since Sri Lankan troops ended a major offensive Monday against separatists in the north-eastern sector of the Jaffna peninsula.

Three LTTE guerrillas also died in the "swift operation," a spokesman for the group said here in the capital of south India's Tamil Nadu state, adding that many soldiers were wounded.

Sri Lankan soldiers set up the camp at the Jaffna telecommunications building near the old Dutch fort on March 23, and soldiers were flown there two days ago from Colombo, the spokesman said. LTTE guerrillas used grenades to destroy the building, he said.

Meanwhile, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), the LTTE's smaller ally, said Sri Lankan forces attacked civilian areas in the peninsula Wednesday. An EROS news release here said the army shelled civilian areas from Jaffna Fort, Point Pedro and the Navatkuli army camps. Air Force helicopters were strafing civilian areas "indiscriminately", it charged.

All Tamil separatist groups have offices in Tamil Nadu, home to 55 million Indian Tamils and about 130,000 Sri Lankan refugees.

'Rift' Between LTTE, EROS

BK040312 Hong Kong AFP in English 0255 GMT 4 Jun 87

[Text] Madras, India, June 4 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's military offensive in the island's north has led to a serious rift between two major Tamil militant groups which have fought together for an independent Tamil homeland, guerrilla sources here said. The dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and its smaller ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), held widely conflicting views on their military strategy, the sources said.

Sri Lankan Security Forces have overrun several strongholds of the two guerrila groups, particularly the LTTE, since thousands of government troops launched a major offensive in the northern Jaffna Peninsula on May 20. Two top leaders of the EROS said while the LTTE alone could not be blamed for the guerrilla losses in the peninsula, "somebody has to take the blame" and added that LTTE's attacks on other militant groups had weakened the Tamil separatist campaign.

"LTTE will have to answer (for) that," EROS leader Velupillai Balakumar said in an interview at his office in this southern Indian city, referring to the loss of strategic coastal areas in Jaffna area to the Sri Lankan Army. It was the first reported major criticism of the LTTE by the EROS, a small but well-knit Marxist group that has been accused of several sabotage actions by Colombo.

The two groups are normally referred to as allies, but Mr. Balakumar sought to emphasise that EROS was an ally of "all militant organisations".

Five major militant groups seeking a Tamil state in Sri Lanka have offices in India's southern Tamil Nadu State, which is separated from the island by a narrow strip of sea known as Palk Strait. It is home to some 130,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees and 5,000 militants.

But the LTTE, the strongest group, last year almost decimated the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) in a fratricidal war, attacked the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and "banned" the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) in Jaffna. The three groups have since come together and are said to be holding talks on formulating a common action programme.

Mr. Balakumar and his second-in-command, R. Shankar, said they had discussed these and other issues with the LTTE, but did not say what the response was.

LTTE's political advisor Anton Balasingham was not available for comment, and a senior guerrilla leader, Nateshan, initially agreed to arrange an interview with him but later backed out.

Mr. Balakumar said the LTTE had not adequately trained civilians to defend Vadamarachchi, a key Tamil stronghold comprising about one fourth of the Jaffna Peninsula which has fallen to the Security Forces.

"People of Vadamarachchi should have been prepared to defend the area from the Army, in the form of local militia," he said. "This wasn't done. Instead, militants (LTTE fighters) had to do the job."

The EROS was also not a party to the LTTE's idea of claiming Jaffna to be a "liberated zone", he said, adding: "Our strategy has always been different. We believe in politicising people and working secretly. We don't think the time has come to declare any area as liberated."

Both Mr. Balakumar and Mr. Shankar said recent gains by Sri Lankan Security Forces in the Jaffna Peninsula would create "serious logistic problems" for the militants who used the area to land arms and men from across south India.

Fuel Rationing Plans Lifted

BK040915 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0908 GMT 4 Jun 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 04 (*Lanka Puwath*) — A special government communique issued by the Media Centre in Colombo states that the government has lifted all fuel rationing schemes in Jaffna. All petroleum products are already on their way to Jaffna from the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and from Vavuniya depots.

The government has also invited all non-governmental organisations working in Sri Lanka both local and foreign to proceed to Jaffna and assist in the distribution of food stuffs to civilians.